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Palestinian Affairs

'Arafat Adviser Says PLO Asks U.S. New Questions

JN2811204689 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic
27 Nov 89 p 9

[Text] Dr Nabil Sha'th, political adviser to Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat, has said that the PLO addressed a number of new questions to the U.S. Administration, whose response to earlier Palestinian queries was not fully satisfactory. This is part of the serious efforts Egypt is making to reach a formula on the basis of which a Palestinian-Israeli dialogue can be initiated, he added.

In a statement to AL-AHRAM correspondent Muhammad 'Abd-al-Hadi, he said the PLO is eager not to raise obstacles on the road to peace but to create the right beginning as defined by Egypt and the PLO. There are no decisive obstacles, and the issue is still open for debate, he said.

On the U.S. position, he said President 'Arafat had asked Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh, head of the Palestinian delegation to the dialogue with the United States in Tunis, to convey a message to Ambassador Pelletreau, head of the U.S. delegation, containing a specific question: "Can you hold the elections?" The U.S. response was: "We cannot do it without you."

He stated that the U.S. Administration is trying to take in Israel's rejection and to continue its endeavor to keep the peace process going until until we reach the international conference.

'Arafat's adviser stressed that Egypt, under Mubarak's leadership, acts not as a mediator, but as a supporter of the Palestinian people's rights. Egypt is playing an effective role as partner to the PLO so that there will be a just, peaceful settlement.

Al-Zibri on PLO Constants, U.S.-Israeli Ties

JN2811190289 Kuwait AL-QABAS in Arabic
27 Nov 89 pp 1, 24

[By Muhammad Ahmad al-Qabisi in Tunis]

[Text] Abu-'Ali Mustafa [Mustafa al-Zibri], PLO Executive Committee member and deputy secretary general of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine [PFLP], has said that Palestinian political moves vis-a-vis U.S. Secretary of State James Baker's amended plan still proceed from three constants: First, the PLO's right as sole representative of the Palestinians must not be encroached on; second, the Palestinian political initiative, which includes the national rights of the Palestinian people, must not be encroached on; and third, the international conference must be fully adhered to as the framework for a political solution. In an interview with AL-QABAS, Abu-'Ali Mustafa added that these constants cannot possibly be bypassed or transcended.

If we adopt these three basic points, we find that neither the 10-point plan proposed by Egyptian President Husni Mubarak, nor Yitshaq Shamir's plan, nor James Baker's points respond favorably to them. On the contrary, taken as a whole, these points try to ignore and transcend these constants. The Palestinian leadership, therefore, must not discuss issues outside these constants, and hence came the five points decided by the PLO Central Council. Abu-'Ali Mustafa said reports about U.S.-Israeli differences following Shamir's visit to Washington are merely an attempt to blow dust and delude some circles into thinking that there are disagreements between Bush and Shamir. The evidence to the contrary is that Bush, on 21 November, signed the decision to provide $1.8 billion worth of U.S. military assistance to Israel. This stresses the total alliance between the United States and Israel. The aim of talk about differences is to mislead some Arab and Palestinian circles so that they adopt the wrong policy.

Abu-'Ali Mustafa said the United States rejects any differences in the Israeli ruling coalition, and together with Israel, it tries to stall for time, mistakenly believing that it is possible to liquidate the intifadah by promoting some kind of "political dizziness in the Arab region."

Concerning the Palestinian memorandum to the Arab League Council, Abu-'Ali Mustafa explained that the memorandum contains two basic sides. The political side revolves around the failure to implement the resolutions of the Algiers and Casablanca summit resolutions, whether concerning moves by the seven-man committee on the international scene or moves by the five countries [not further specified] and the need to coordinate among them.

Consequently, we are asking the Arab League Council to translate the Arab summit resolutions into political action.

The second part of the memorandum concerns Arab financial obligations to the intifadah—the assistance that was decided in the summits of Algiers and Casablanca. Here, Abu-'Ali Mustafa explained that "we do not accept to enter the 3rd year of the intifadah drugged with illusions about solutions." The intifadah, which will enter a new qualitative and innovative phase, is a national responsibility. But it is also an Arab responsibility that requires much Arab concern.

Asked about the criticism leveled at the Palestinian leadership, Abu-'Ali Mustafa explained that in its latest session in Baghdad, the PLO Central Council discussed this criticism from the perspective of democratic inclinations of the PLO. The criticism, he added, revolved around the question of how to administer the struggle with the United States and the possibility of upgrading political performance by PLO offices abroad.

Hence came the resolutions of PLO Central Council and the Executive Committee on the need to introduce some changes in Palestinian representation abroad.

Explaining why he did not attend the recent Executive Committee meetings in Cairo, Abu-'Ali Mustafa said that he is the deputy secretary general of the PFLP, which still has reservations on the Egyptian role in all its details as long as Egypt continues to be commited to the Camp David accords. We, as the PFLP, cannot be convinced that the Egyptian regime has good intentions, he said.

U.S. Stand Against PLO in FAO Session Criticized

JN2711211889 Baghdad Voice of the PLO in Arabic 1840 GMT 27 Nov 89

[Unattributed talk]

[Text] Gentlemen, the story of the heated Palestinian-U.S. battle on the Food and Agriculture Organization's [FAO] front is good enough to be exemplary of the U.S. charter on the issue of human rights. The battle started as follows. The PLO, which is a participating delegation in the FAO with the status of an observer, asked the international organization to study providing technical aid to Palestinian farmers in the occupied territories, supervising the use of water resources—which the Israeli entity is depleting—developing animal and fish resources in these territories, and providing other aid and technical advice as it does to the rest of the developing countries in the world.

The preceding Palestinian demand was no more than a humanitarian issue in the first instance, calling for food security for a people suffering from the bullying of foreign occupation. This caused 158 members of the 160 member states in the FAO to approve the Palestinian demands openly.

The remaining two members who rejected this unanimous international approval over the Palestinian demands are: first, the Israeli entity, which is to be expected; and second, the United States. In fact, the U.S. Administration responded to this international organization by volunteering on behalf of the Israeli delegation to oppose the entire contents of the Palestinian demand and said: No to technical help and no to granting food aid to the citizens in the occupied Arab territories. The U.S. delegation went so far as to threaten openly to cut off all sources of U.S. financial aid to the FAO if the session accepted one of the Palestinian demands.

Had these Palestinian demands suggested, even obliquely, any purely political connotations, then we would have said that this was natural. We are not in a secure position with the United States, despite the fact that it is holding an official dialogue with the PLO. However, the PLO's demand has absolutely no political dimensions. It is a purely humanitarian request. It can be placed in the purely humanitarian category known as food security for a people suffering from occupation. This is the basis on which the FAO helped and is helping all world nations. Why are the Palestinian people excluded, as the U.S. Administration's delegation insists? Why do we have this concentrated U.S. animosity toward the Palestinian people, even on issues concerning the simplest human rights?

The U.S. Administration uses the basest means of hostility against the rights of the Palestinian people. The uncivilized U.S. threat to cut off U.S. financial support from the FAO—should the FAO accept even one of the Palestinian demands—is most indicative of this

On this subject, we do not want to discuss U.S. policy toward the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people. We can do without it. So far, we still do not consider the U.S. Administration anything less than our enemy. This is the reality of the situation, which we will continue to try and change by arming ourselves with our rights, our reality, and the importance of our presence in the international arena.

However, the U.S. Administration's battle against purely technical and humanitarian Palestinian demands, as in the case of the FAO, reveals the extent to which U.S. hypocrisy and deception concerning human rights can go. Will the retrieval of a Palestinian farmer [words indistinct] to improve planting his vineyards threaten world security to the extent of provoking the U.S. Administration? Will providing a Palestinian farmer under the oppressive occupation with technical advice inflame the hotbed of struggle in the Middle East and place the whole region on the brink of a war?

The U.S. Administration has stooped this low; raising human rights slogans while opposing the rights of the Palestinian individual. Yes. We tell the officials of the U.S. Administration: We do not need any more proof of your enmity toward us—people, rights, history, and revolution. This is a destiny we have accepted and shall bear. From our position in the struggle, the world, and the civilized march, they [word indistinct] to make whoever opposes our liberation march bow down. In fact, we can turn the tables on those around it at the appropriate time [words indistinct] and any force that takes the course of enmity against the Palestinian people. Our people never despair. However, watch out for their fury. The end will come, and how!

Salah Khalaf on Intifadah, Foreign Relations

JN2611110089 Paris AL-MUHARRIR in Arabic 25 Nov 89 p 3

[Interview with Fatah Central Committee Member Salah Khalaf, identified by his nom de guerre Abu-Iyad, by Nabil Abu-Ja'far in Tunis—date not given]

[Text] Abu-Iyad is an encyclopedia of knowledge. He is well-informed on the details of the most important things happening behind the political and security scenes. AL-MUHARRIR gently stormed his office and one question led to another until 2 full hours had gone by.

This dialogue was not meant for publication to start with. It was a dialogue that began with a casual question.

However, it quickly took off in various directions. Afterward, AL-MUHARRIR asked whether he minded if this dialogue were published. He answered that he did not mind. The answers came back full of secrets.

[Abu-Ja'far] Was the fact that the intifadah youth resorted to weapons for the first time on the anniversary of the Palestinian state proclamation a decision or an individual act?

[Khalaf] There was no such decision to use weapons in the intifadah regions. However, as we warned a few months ago, when the political settlement process goes through a crisis or when it reaches a dead end, it means that Palestinians might reach a state of desperation concerning peaceful action. Their leaders then cannot control the popular leadership in its escalation of violence and the use of weapons. I believe that what happened in the Gaza Strip is a warning to the fossilized minds in the Israeli Government so that it will deal with the Palestinian peace initiative positively before the Palestinian leadership, which still adheres to its initiative, loses its grip on the situation.

[Abu-Ja'far] But what if this situation is repeated?

[Khalaf] Then, we would be standing before an indicator proving that the masses have started becoming completely desperate in view of the continuing process of humiliation practiced against them, despite their inclination toward peace.

[Abu-Ja'far] For 2 years, the stone was the intifadah's weapon. The world has now come to realize that. What change might occur in public opinion if weapons are used after all this patience and these victims?

[Khalaf] We must explain this change and the reasons for it to public opinion. We must prepare public opinion for all possibilities, especially since Israeli belligerence and U.S. bias have become clear before world public opinion, particularly before the European Community which Baker, through his talks with French Foreign Minister Dumas, has asked to realize that it plays no role at this stage and that it must afford an opportunity only to the attractive U.S. efforts [as published].

[Abu-Ja'far] You concentrate on public opinion a great deal. So much so that you took it into account with great care in the last Palestine National Council resolutions. Has public opinion changed anything concerning the stand on settlement?

[Khalaf] We should not make light of public opinion, especially the European, because if we go back to its formation, Israel came into being within a European womb and not an American one. Therefore, the European role is important.

I said a few days ago that this role has no teeth. However, if it grows teeth, it will be an effective force in Israel as well as the United States. This does not mean we ought to be its slaves, but we should give it a chance to move.

[Abu-Ja'far] Through the steps we see and the statements we hear, it seems that we have practically gone back to al-Sadat's saying that 99.9 percent of the cards are in U.S. hands.

[Khalaf] A legitimate question; however, the difference between our evaluation and his is that the late al-Sadat acceded to concessions to get something in return, such as Sinai, at the expense of the Palestine question. Our lenience is not at the expense of something. It is to convince the world of the justness of our cause. Despite that, in the final analysis, we must answer the question of what we should do, because if we continue the process of acceding to concessions, we will end up in a situation worse than al-Sadat. However, if the answer to our question of what should be done is to depend on our own resolutions and attempt to gather the Arab forces, even if a minimum, and strengthen the stand of friends in the world to form a broad front confronting the demands for concessions and not responding to them, we would then be different from al-Sadat.

[Abu-Ja'far] The way the solution has been achieved in Lebanon has shown the extent of the harmony reached between the United States and its Arab friends in the absence of what was called national, progressive forces, etc.... How did this take place, and, light of it, how do you envision the future?

[Khalaf] The volume of the events that took place in Lebanon made every citizen and everyone in the world demand a solution no matter under what title this solution comes. In view of this bizarre paradox, the people did not ask what the solution points or methods were. The solution itself became the objective. In other words: How can insane shelling stop, and how can the torrents of killing and blood stop? These questions were not only the preoccupation of the people, but the preoccupation of the Arab leaders as well. That is why the al-Ta'if meetings were the only way to stop the massacre. We should judge the al-Ta'if bases and their results in accordance with this logic. We should not forget that in addition to the fierce shelling and continued killings, there was the element of realizing Lebanon's unity—which is a sacred aim for all Arabs. As for the second part of the question, it has to do with the coming implementation steps. Here, I admit that balances are the governing factor of the accords on Lebanon or for the sake of Lebanon. I will give you a living example regarding this point; the Cairo agreement which stipulates the conditions for the Palestinian presence in Lebanon could be of no significance, but through the balances of power it could have a significant meaning. Besides, these balances enabled the parliament in another stage to cancel the accord, but all of this, surely, did not cancel the rifle.

[Abu-Ja'far] Sometimes the Americans directly meet with the PLO or a representative of the PLO, but at other times contact is made through Egypt. How do you explain this duality?

[Khalaf] The Americans know that the PLO represents the Palestinian people and that it is the major and political influencing power. But placating Israel and its objectives to wipe out the name of the PLO in any talk about Israeli-Palestinian negotiations makes the Americans comfortable when they deal with the PLO through any Arab or foreign side—once Sweden, on another occasion an Arab capital. But the truth is that we are aware and heedful of this manipulation. Despite our respect for the Egyptian channel because it did not impose its views on us, and because we willingly accepted it, we left the door open for the other channel which is direct dialogue with the United States. Everything we inform our Egyptian brothers of, we directly inform the Americans about, even if there is a short time lapse.

[Abu-Ja'far] Baker's points, your questions about them, and Shamir's visit to Washington.... All of these are developments that impel us to inquire about the latest stands on these issues.

[Khalaf] In all the previous meetings, whether they were held directly with the Americans or through our Egyptian brothers, there was a single American language which has not changed. It is to be noted that evasiveness overshadowed clarity. Evasiveness always means running away from a definite position. This was the basis of Baker's stand and the answer to our questions. Therefore, in view of this evasiveness, we find ourselves in a weaker position if we accept what is proposed to us. Consequently, whenever evasiveness in their answers increases, the volume of our fears also increases. Anyway, when the messages exchanged between us and the United States, directly or through middlemen, are made public, the public will know how much we endured during this stage, how much we have done so that we might not appear as obstructing the peace process, and in order to prevent the United States or any one else from blaming us and making Shamir appear as a peacemaker although he is an enemy of peace, and make us appear as the enemies of peace instead, whereas this is not our reality.

[Abu-Ja'far] It is always said that the PLO's ties with Arab regimes are governed by neither Palestinian nor common interests, but first and foremost by the interests of this or that regime. How would you comment on this?

[Khalaf] Regrettably, this applies to our ties with some Arab regimes. Otherwise, how would you explain the fact that we are alone in the struggle in the political arena? The Arabs abandoned the military option at the Fes summit. They were supposed to place their weight and efforts behind every political move that we make, as the Palestinian initiative will acquire an added strength and forcefulness when the weight of the entire Arab world is placed behind this initiative which became an Arab initiative at the Casablanca summit. However, we have not so far despaired of Arab moves. We hope that some Arab states that have influential political leverage unused so far will use that leverage to bolster Palestinian action. We have not despaired of seeing this eventuality materialize.

[Abu-Ja'far] Some quarters believe that Fatah's head, before other heads, is wanted at this point in time, just as it was wanted in previous phases. Moreover, there are whispers about political differences within the Fatah command. Do you not fear that these differences, if they actually exist, would pose a danger, facilitating the attainment of the objective being pursued by hostile forces, particularly when we take into account the fact that some people have been spreading rumors to the effect that there are differences between you and President 'Arafat?

[Khalaf] We within the Fatah Movement would like to say that Fatah's historic leadership has been operating for more than 30 years. It has been working together in one trench. Undoubtedly, some differences emerge within the Fatah command from time to time. However, our resorting to democratic traditions to resolve these differences has always enabled the movement to survive. Had it not been for the cohesion of the historic leadership of Fatah, the leader of the Palestinian action, the divisions and dissensions that plagued the movement in the wake of the Israeli invasion of 1982 would have torn Fatah apart and finished it off.

As for the refrain on the differences between me and Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] or between Abu-al-Lutf [Faruq Qaddumi] and Abu-'Ammar, I would like to say that this is an old song to which we have grown accustomed. Whenever there is cohesion among Fatah command members, acts of instigation are initiated. A long list of instigators, including some Arab regimes, are always involved in such acts. This list also includes some opportunists in the Palestinian arena as well as some small bats within Fatah. Therefore, I would like to assure you that things are good. This does not mean that we are hollow walls propped up and incapable of having differences. On the contrary, we differ and agree. However, agreement is always reached.

[Abu-Ja'far] What are the borderlines between agreement and disagreement within the Fatah command?

[Khalaf] We are all agreed on the outlines endorsed at the Algiers meetings. However, there might be differences over details. This is a healthy sign and not a symptom of an illness. However, the question to be posed is the following: Will these differences lead to divisions and dissension? I can give a definitive answer to this question saying that such a thing will never happen.

[Abu-Ja'far] Press reports in the British capital say that Libya is mediating between the PLO and Abu-Nidal [Sabri al-Banna] and that Abu-Nidal sent a message to President 'Arafat in this regard.

[Khalaf] I do not believe that there has been any message sent by Abu-Nidal to Abu-'Ammar. We view what happened within the "Abu- Nidal faction" as an internal matter with which we have nothing to do. We opposed the group's methods even before it split (into two organizations). This faction's split does not concern us, as it is the split affecting a previously unified organization which has been operating in the Palestinian, Arab, and international arenas using methods that have never met with our approval, especially since the two factions have continued to espouse their previous organizational methods and policies.

[Abu-Ja'far] Every time you visit Paris, newspapers talk about Palestinian-French security coordination and about the role that you played in securing the release of hostages. What is the truth concerning this relationship and its prospects?

[Khalaf] When we endorsed our denunciation of terrorism and said that we condemned all forms of terrorism, we meant this. The Palestinians used to be held responsible for every terrorist operation perpetrated in any part of the world. This distortion of our image was brought about through coordination between the Israeli intelligence and some foreign intelligence organs. Hence, we decided in 1984 to open up to some European intelligence organs, particularly those of the countries with which we maintain good political ties, like France, Italy, and others. Cooperation in this regard has always centered on fighting all forms and manifestations of terrorism to confirm to all parties that we cling to our anti-terrorism stance.

In this field, we cooperated with the European countries you mentioned. This cooperation had its positive results in stopping many operations that hurt civilians and gave Arabs a bad image abroad. We are still exchanging information in this field.

Incidentally, we declared often that in our relations with these countries, we did not behave as merchants. We dealt with them from the position of friend to friend within the framework of analysis and exchange of opinion and information.

[Abu-Ja'far] And concerning the hostages?

[Khalaf] Concerning the hostages, we contributed toward all the stages as much as we could and as much as the limits of our relations with the kidnappers allowed us to. We helped as much as we could. When we failed in an attempt, we did not hesitate to declare out loud that we were against the kidnapping of hostages. We consider that such acts are blackmail and are inhuman. Even in such statements, we served the cause of the hostages and did not encourage continuation of the situation. We held talks sometimes with those who practiced such acts to prevent them from continuing. I believe that we succeeded greatly in this field in stopping many of the operations that would have led to killing more innocent victims and distorting our reputation abroad.

When the criminal downing of the French plane in Africa took place, and prior to that the downing of the Pan Am flight, we exerted all our security efforts to find out who was behind the incident. We were, and still are, ready to expose those involved, whoever they may be. Cooperation between us and our French friends to find out the details of the plane operation still continue. We will not hesitate to provide information revealing the criminals who carried out such an act. Of course, we do not submit the accusation process to analysis, but to precise and realistic information.

[Abu-Ja'far] According to your information, what will happen to the French mother and her child who are held hostage by Fatah - The Revolutionary Council?

[Khalaf] Unfortunately, they are still with Abu-Nidal. We tried in many ways to end this operation peacefully. However, it seems that there is a secret behind not responding to releasing the French and Belgian hostages.

[Abu-Ja'far] What is this secret?

[Khalaf] I cannot reveal it now. But the day will come when we will reveal it if they are not released.

[Abu-Ja'far] We have not heard any news about Carlos for quite a while. Has he retired or died; what has happened to him?

[Khalaf] Carlos is finished.

[Abu-Ja'far] In light of this positive relationship with France, will the head of the Palestine legation become ambassador of Palestine in Paris?

[Khalaf] We believe that the French Government's position, specifically President Mitterrand's, is the voice inside the European Community reverberating in benefit of our people's cause. His last speech in Strasbourg was concentrated and humanitarian, to our benefit. Therefore, the issue of a legation or embassy is not as of great an interest to us as is the French stand itself which in our opinion, has become a very positive one. We attach great hopes to it. In fact, this is the secret of our response to relations with France on all directions and interests.

OPEC Affairs

Conference in Vienna Concludes With Accord

Production Ceiling Endorsed

AU2811183889 Paris AFP in English 1809 GMT 28 Nov 89

[Excerpt] Vienna, Nov 28 (AFP)—All 13 members of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries Tuesday endorsed a new crude oil production pact, Indonesia's Energy and Mining Minister Ginandjar Kartasasmita said. Emerging from the final plenary session of a six-day OPEC meeting here, he said ministers of all member countries had signed the deal, setting an overall OPEC ceiling of 22 million barrels a day [B/D], up from the current 20.5 million B/D.

But United Arab Emirates oil minister Mani' Sa'id al-'Utaybah said he would hold his country's output at two million B/D. Kuwait's oil minister Shaykh 'Ali al-Khalifa al-Sabah said the emirate would abide by its new quota of 1.5 million B/D.

A communique issued by the ministers said member countries had "reaffirmed (their) commitment to abide by and strictly adhere to the production quotas" set by the meeting.

OPEC Secretary General Doctor Subroto told a news conference that Mr. al-'Utaybah had reserved his position on the quota allocated to the UAE, saying he did not feel bound to abide by it. The UAE minister told reporters he intended to produce "as much as I will be comfortable with."

The statement said ministers agreed that "the minimum reference price" of OPEC's crude oil basket would be 18 dollars a barrel. It was the first time OPEC had introduced the notion of a "minimum price," OPEC watchers said.

Algerian Energy and Mining Minister Sadek Boussena said this meant there was now "a guarantee" that OPEC would defend the average OPEC price at this level. "There will no longer be a price below 18 (dollars); that's the message to the market," he said. "If this level is not reached, the (market monitoring) committee will meet." [passage omitted]

Production Levels Outlined

LD2811191289 Vienna OPECNA in English 1658 GMT 28 Nov 89

[Text] Vienna, 28 Nov. 89 (OPECNA)—At the end today of the 86th meeting of the Conference of the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC), the following press release was issued:

86th Meeting of the OPEC Conference
Vienna, Austria, 25-28 November, 1989

The 86th meeting of the Conference of the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) was held in Vienna, Austria, from 25th to 28th November, 1989. The conference unanimously re-elected as its president HE [His Excellency] Alhaji Rilwanu Lukman, minister of petroleum resources of Nigeria and head of its delegation. HE Sadek Boussena, minister of mines of Algeria and head of its delegation, was unanimously re-elected alternate president.

The conference reviewed and discussed the reports of the economic commission board, the high-level marketing representatives and the group of experts on condensates, as well as the report of the eight-minister monitoring committee on OPEC's long-term strategy and contacts with non-OPEC oil producers/exporters. After having examined the supply/demand outlook, the conference decided to increase the OPEC production ceiling to 22 MB/D [million barrels per day] during the first half of 1990. Accordingly, member countries' production levels for the first half of 1990 will be as follows:

	(MB/D)
Algeria	0.827
Ecuador	0.273
Gabon	0.197
Indonesia	1.374
I.R. Iran	3.140
Iraq	3.140
Kuwait	1.500
S.P. Libyan A.J.	1.233
Nigeria	1.611
Qatar	0.371
Saudi Arabia	5.380
United Arab Emirates	1.095
Venezuela	1.945

The conference reaffirmed member countries' commitment to abide by and strictly adhere to the production quotas as defined above. The conference agreed that the minimum reference price of the OPEC crude basket would be 18 U.S. dollars/bbl. The conference also decided that the eight-minister monitoring committee will meet in March, 1990 in order to assess the market and will be attended by all member countries. The conference approved the budget of the organization for the year 1990.

The conference appointed Mr. Abdul Aziz al-Turki, governor for the year 1990, and Mr. Sheiba Sa'id al-Hamily, governor for the United Arab Emirates, to be alternate chairman for the same period. The conference expressed its sincere appreciation to the government of the Federal Republic of Austria and to the authorities of the city of Vienna for their warm hospitality and the excellent arrangements made for the meeting.

The conference passed resolutions which will be published on 28th December, 1989, after ratification by member countries. The next ordinary meeting of the conference will be convened in Vienna on 25th May, 1990.

Lukman Holds News Conference

LD2811211989 Vienna OPECNA in English 1845 GMT 28 Nov 89

[Text] Vienna, 28 Nov. 89 (OPECNA) - OPEC Conference president Alhaji Rilwanu Lukman told a news conference this evening that with the exception of the United Arab Emirates, which had expressed 'reservations' regarding its output share, all other OPEC member countries had lent their full support to the new production agreement which had raised the ceiling to 22 million B/D [barrels per day]. The new agreement, which represents an increase of 1.5 million B/D, comes into effect on 1 January 1990.

In an answer to a question about Kuwait, OPEC Secretary General Dr Subroto said: 'Kuwait has signed the quota allocated to it—1.5 million B/D—and has promised very solemnly that it will abide by whatever it has signed.'

To a correspondent who claimed that Libya had expressed 'reservations' about its quota, Lukman said no such reservations had been expressed by the Libyan delegation in the conference.

Subroto, while explaining the fact that the quotas allocated to the 13 OPEC member countries did not add up to 22 million B/D, pointed out that not all countries were going to produce their full quotas. He was not in a position, he added, to provide a list of these countries, but confirmed that Indonesia would not be producing its full share.

Lukman, however, said that Nigeria had the capacity to produce its full quota of 1.611 million B/D and would be doing so. Subroto said the eight-member OPEC ministerial monitoring committee would meet in March and 'assess' the market and if the president of the conference deemed it necessary, and if the price was found to have 'deviated' too much from the 'minimum reference' level of 18 dollars per barrel, necessary steps would be taken.

Subroto, in answer to a question, said that the current market price of the OPEC basket of crudes was 17.74 dollars per barrel and it was the opinion of OPEC experts that OPEC's share of the market would be around 23 million B/D. However, it was the OPEC ministers who decided in their 'wisdom' what steps to take on the basis of these projections.

Lukman, asked if Norway would support OPEC, replied: 'Why not? They have every reason to support us. We are doing something that will help the market and improve prices.' He also confirmed that different OPEC ministers would be visiting non-OPEC countries as part of the organization's efforts to establish co-operation with outside oil producers. He replied in the negative when asked if the United Kingdom was among the countries to be visited since it had never shown any interest in OPEC overtures.

Subroto told a correspondent who asked if any decisions had been taken regarding the OPEC long-term strategy, 'we are still working on it.'

Subroto, asked if the projected OPEC summit would be held next year, replied: 'We are still discussing the ramifications of holding the summit. We feel that we have not exhausted the topic. We will continue to discuss it in March and later in May at the time of our mid-year conference.'

The secretary general also confirmed that the next year-end OPEC ministerial conference would be held in Morocco. He said the organization had accepted an invitation from King Hassan II of Morocco. He also confirmed that the condensate problem was 'once and for all solved' in the case of Venezuela, which had accepted the classification decided by the conference, namely 190,000 B/D as oil and 37,000 B/D as condensates.

Algeria

FLN Emergency Congress Opens in Algiers

LD2811135989 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1100 GMT 28 Nov 89

[Text] The proceedings of the FLN [National Liberation Front] began this morning at the palace of congresses 5 July complex, chaired by Chadli Bendjedid, chairman of the front and president of the Republic. We now contact the radio correspondent at the congress.

[Correspondent Nourreddine] Once again greetings from the Olympic complex, from Oval Hall. At this very moment, Abdelhamid Mehri, secretary general of the FLN Central Committee has summoned the militants, the participant members of the Political Committee. After the membership confirmation committee began its work immediately after its members were summoned, then the structure of these four committees was ratified—the Procedural and Basic Law Committee. We are awaiting the Political Committee which as I said, Abdelhamid Mehri convened only a few moments ago.

Before the summoning or formation and endorsement of the committees of the emergency congress, Abdelhamid Mehri read out the report of the Central Committee to the emergency congress. This was a long report lasting from about 1115 [1015 GMT] to 1147. It was a comprehensive report on the political, economic, and social situation in the country prior to the current congress.

Prior to the reading of the report, there was a dispute over the endorsement of the draft agenda—the agenda of the congress—which was proposed to the conferees. It comprises four points: the Central Committee's report to the congress; the FLN's political program; the modification of the Basic Law; and the election of other members to the Central Committee in light of the modification of the Basic Law.

However, this fourth and last point led to some dispute in the congress hall. After about half an hour of give and take, the issue was decided by Chairman of the Front, President of the Republic Chadli Bendjedid, who suggested that the fourth point of the draft agenda should be modified to read: The election of Central Committee members in light of the modifications of the Basic Law; instead of: The election of other members—meaning that the structure of the Central Committee remains as it is with the addition of other members.

However, the proposal put forward by President Chadli Bendjedid, as I said, is as follows: The election of Central Committee members in light of the modifications of the Basic Law—meaning that the Central Committee will be renewed. This proposal was met with widespread approval and welcomed by the congress, as witnessed by the warm clapping which followed the reading out of this modification. This is all we have on the morning session, the opening session, which is still in progress. Abdelhamid Mehri, secretary general of the Front Central Committee, is still reading out nominations for members in the Political Committee. We will report back to you for the second bulletin at 1300 [1200 GMT].

Congress Forms Six Commissions

LD2811213289 Algiers Domestic Service in French 1200 GMT 28 Nov 89

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] Commissions of the FLN congress have been formed and their composition has been approved. They emerge from the precongress meeting and do not include members of the Central Committee. Six commissions have been formed, if one includes the traditional commission on validation of mandates. The other commissions are: economic and social commission, education commission, organization and regulations commission, political commission, and candidature commission. The session ended at about 1215 and will resume at 1430.

Hears Central Committee Report

LD2911230189 Algiers Television Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 28 Nov 89

[Excerpts] [Announcer] The FLN [National Liberation Front] looks at the reforms from a new position. From its extraordinary congress, the FLN, with the voice of 5,000 delegates, submits ideas, some of which are new and others old. Everyone is looking to this congress for a new FLN which will embrace reforms and prepare the Algeria of the nineties. Madani Amer reports directly from the conference hall. Good evening, Amer.

[Amer] Good evening, Zahiya. Good evening, ladies and gentlemen.

[Announcer] Amer, what about the event, the meeting of the FLN extraordinary congress since this morning, and what is the situation at the conference hall?

[Amer] The event is big in all aspects. [passage omitted]

After settling the procedural issues, the congress continued its work by listening to the report of the Central Committee, which was presented by the secretary general of the Central Committee. Jamal Nazzar now presents a summary of the report:

[Nazzar] The secretary general reviewed the changes in Algerian society, the necessary political and economic reforms dictated by them, and the changes to the organization of the FLN and its political program and methods of work demanded by these reforms. He recalled the geat national missions carried out by the FLN over the past 35 years and its great achievements for the benefit of the people. If the result of this long march is full of achievements and positive points, it has also—the report stressed—led to a number of negative points.

The report considers that we should not restrict ourselves to pointing out and listing the negative points, but we should ask objectively and in detail about the reasons for these negative points and their deep effects. There are many factors which collectively created the crisis in which we live today, and it would be wrong to put all the responsibility on the FLN.

[Begin recording of Abdelhamid Mehri, FLN secretary general] This does not mean that the FLN should evade responsibility for the mistakes which occurred, or should put its officials above the mistakes. But we are certain that facing up to this crisis and overcoming it calls for working toward making the deep political and economic reforms succeed. These reforms are demanded by the situation, and President Chadli Bendjedid has done the greatest share of the work. Thanks are due primarily to him for calling for these reforms.

It is necessary, during this congress and after it, to study in detail and objectively our experiment in the 60's, 70's and 80's, not in order to remain within the limits of the organization, thinking and prevailing practices of each of these decades but in order to reach solutions suitable for the 90's and the years after.

Confronting the crisis demands that we continue the comprehensive development under extremely difficult circumstances. This leaves no space for complacency or easy solutions. It also requires a firm policy in managing public affairs and the mobilization of all work and production abilities. This cannot be achieved except by the state and its officials and the leaders of society in general set an example in this field. [end recording]

[Nazzar] The report of the Central Committee secretary general defined the broad lines of the FLN's future program, which includes all the political, economic, social, and cultural fields. He pointed out the qualifications of the FLN to continue its mission, which are basically a continuous and clear commitment to the fulfillment of the political and social aims specified by the National Charter on socialist construction; the dependence of the FLN in its construction on the broad social classes, and in its organization on the democratic practice in managing its institutions; and also its dependence on private financial resources in financing its activities; the complete attention given to following up the resolutions at all levels and stages of implementation in order to close the gap between the theoretical solution and its practical implementation. This is in addition to adopting the causes of the masses and their daily problems, working hard toward solving them, and including the masses in finding these solutions.

The Central Committee report stressed the FLN's commitment to the national characteristics and the socialist option, and asked the congress to authorize it to invite all political forces and organizaitons to study a draft aimed at mobilizing all popular energies in order to confront the many challenges facing the country and in order to continue the march of national development on the basis of political democracy, economic benefit, and social justice, which are the slogan of the congress. [passage omitted]

Egypt

'Abd-al-Majid Comments on Proposed Elections

Outlines 10 Points

NC2711205589 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1741 GMT 27 Nov 89

[Text] Cairo, 27 Nov (MENA)—Egypt today and for the first time officially disclosed the 10 points it had presented to the Israeli Government in connection with the proposed elections in the occupied territories.

This came in a message sent by Dr 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, to UN Secretary General Perez de Cuellar on 22 November. The message deals with the current efforts to find a peaceful settlement for the Middle East crisis.

Dr 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid made a statement in this regard today in which he said that these points are as follows:

One: The need for all inhabitants of the West Bank and Gaza, including those residing in East Jerusalem, to participate in the elections either by voting or contesting the elections. Any inhabitant should have the right to contest the elections provided that he has not been convicted of a crime by a court of law. This will allow persons under administrative detention to contest the elections.

Two: Freedom to conduct electoral campaigns prior to and during the elections.

Three: Acceptance of international supervision of the elections process.

Four: Prior commitment by the Israeli Government to accept the results of the elections.

Five: The Israeli Government's agreement that the elections will be part of the efforts leading not only to a transitional period but also to a final settlement and that all efforts from start to finish will be based on the principles of solution as understood by the United States. These principles are: UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338, the principle of exchanging land for peace, and a guarantee of the security of all the countries in the region, including Israel, as well as of Palestinian political rights.

Six: Withdrawal of the Israeli Army during the elections to a distance of at least 1 km from the polling centers.

Seven: Barring Israeli entry into the West Bank and Gaza on the day of the elections. Entry into these areas would be permitted only to those individuals working there and the inhabitants of the settlements.

Eight: The preparatory period before the elections is not to exceed 2 months, and the preparations are to be conducted by a joint Israeli-Palestinian committee which the United States and Egypt may help in forming.

Nine: The United States should guarantee all the aforementioned points, and a prior declaration to this effect should be issued by the Israeli Government.

Ten: The creation of settlements is to be halted.

Calls Israel 'Intransigent'

LD2711135289 Kuwait KUNA in English 1021 GMT 27 NOV 89

[Text] Rome, Nov 27 (KUNA)—Egypt's deputy premier and foreign minister 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid was quoted Monday as saying that Israel would be serving its interests and protecting its future if it accepted peace with Palestinians.

He also criticized Israeli leaders for not showing flexibility in negotiations with Palestinians through the government of Egypt.

"Shamir is creating difficulties. He can not come to the negotiating table imposing his own point of view," Al-Majid told IL MESSAGGERO newspaper in an interview published today.

"During my long years of negotiation experience since 1956, I have never faced with a party so intransigent like Israel which is trying to select the names of the Palestinian delegation" for talks with Israel, stated the Egyptian official.

Israel's skepticism, he added, makes me "ask myself if Israel really is acting in good faith, or if this is just a method of playing for time."

"If Israel sincerely desires and accepts peace, she is not offering a present for the Arabs but is serving its own interests and future," said Al-Majid, whose country is the only Arab country maintaining a formal peace treaty with Israel.

Foreign Minister Interviewed by Swedish Paper

PM2711110289 Stockholm SVENSKA DAGBLADET in Swedish 17 Nov 89 p 5

[Report on undated interview with Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid by Cordelia Edvardson: "Sweden's Role Appreciated"]

[Text] Cairo—Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid has not lost hope about the peace process in the Middle East, and in a personal interview with SVENSKA DAGBLADET he praised [Swedish] Foreign Minister Sten Andersson's efforts.

Now that Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir is in Washington, the moment of truth is near for both Israelis and Palestinians. After tough U.S. pressure Israel has accepted Secretary of State James Baker's plan for starting a dialogue with the Palestinians but is demanding guarantees that the United States probably cannot or will not give.

In practice Shamir wants to select both the Israeli delegation and the Palestinian delegation, which under no circumstances may contain PLO representatives. He is also demanding that the dialogue be limited to the practical arrangements for general elections in the occupied areas.

According to Foreign Minister 'Abd al-Majid, the PLO has not yet said a direct "no" to the Baker plan. They are probably hoping that Shamir will assume the role of Mister No. PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat recently visited Cairo and it is probable that President Husni Mubarak persuaded 'Arafat to keep all doors open—for the time being.

"The current attempts to promote the peace process are very sensitive and important," 'Abd al-Majid told SVENSKA DAGBLADET. "I am sure that every side has an honest desire to find a solution. It is Egypt's highest wish that Secretary of State Baker succeed in getting a Palestinian and an Israeli delegation to the negotiating table."

At the same time 'Abd al-Majid stressed that only the PLO can select the Palestinians' represetantives—something to which Shamir is saying a blank "no."

In these circumstances, is Egypt's foreign minister optimistic, or does the situation give reason for deep pessimism?

"I am neither optimistic nor pessimistic," he replied. "I am realistic. At the present time enormous changes are taking place in the world, upheavals which no one would have thought possible even a few months ago. Why should major changes not be possible in the Middle East? The abnormal situation of occupation and the Israeli repression of the Palestinians simply cannot continue. Inside Israel, too, there are many reasonable people who want peace; I believe in their honest good will. The PLO in its turn has moved a long way since November 1988. (When PLO Leader Yasir 'Arafat and his parliament recognized UN Resolutions 242 and 338, which speak of Israel's right to have firm recognized borders in exchange for withdrawing from the occupied areas. Later, in Geneva in December, 'Arafat also recognized Israel's right to exist and renounced terrorism.)"

In this context 'Abd al-Majid reminded me of Sten Andersson's efforts to promote the peace process.

"Sweden's role has been greatly appreciated," 'Abd al-Majid said. "By being fair and objective and by having good relations both with Israel and the Palestinians Sweden has put the peace process on the right track."

'Abd al-Majid answered the question of what Sweden could do today with a loud laugh and the comment:

"I am relying on the fact that Sten Andersson himself knows what should be done."

It was probably not only Sten Andersson's good offices which persuaded 'Arafat to accept 242 and to recognize

Israel's right to exist. It was chiefly the intifadah, the Palestinian uprising in the occupied areas, which forced the PLO leadership to embrace a new political realism. The "children of the stones" demanded political action so that their sacrifices in dead, maimed, and beaten-up young people would produce a political profit.

"Yes," 'Abd al-Majid admitted, "the intifadah forced the PLO leadership into a change in the political equation."

The equation was changed exactly a year ago when the Palestinian state was proclaimed in Algiers and the PLO accepted a two-state solution, a Palestinian state and an Israeli state side by side.

At that time, one year ago, a jubilant atmosphere dominated the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, but now impatience and disappointment are growing. A year has passed and not many steps have been taken to move the Palestinian state and the Palestinian people's independence from paper to reality. What would the Egyptian foreign minister say to these impatient Palestinians?

"'You are right to demand an end to the occupation,' is what I would say," 'Abd al-Majid replied. "We in Egypt are working hard for peace, and inside Israel, too, there are strong currents who want peace (with the Palestinians), but it is much more difficult to make peace than to wage war."

Sidqi Receives Saudi, Qatari, Kuwaiti Ministers

NC2711162189 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 27 Nov 89

[Text] Prime Minister Dr 'Atif Sidqi today received Shaykh 'Abd-al-Wahhab 'Abd-al-Wasi', Saudi minister of pilgrimage affairs and awqaf. Egyptian Awqaf Minister Dr Muhammad 'Ali Mahjub, who also attended the meeting, said the talks were held to coordinate the two countries' positions on the propagation of Islamic values, the implementation of the Islamic Conference Organization's resolutions, and the services provided to Egyptian pilgrims. Dr Sidqi stressed the good relations between Egypt and Saudi Arabia.

Dr Sidqi received in his office this afternoon 'Ali al-Khatir, Qatari minister of electricity and water resources, who is currently visiting Egypt. They discussed cooperation between the two brotherly countries particularly in the sphere of energy production and reviewed the outline of the plan to establish a unified electricity grid among Arab countries.

Dr Sidqi also received Kuwaiti Defense Minister Shaykh Nawwaf al-Ahmad. Following the meeting, the latter said that they exchanged views on strengthening the brotherly relations between the two countries. General Yusuf Sabri Abu-Talib, minister of defense and war production, and 'Abd-al-Razzaq al-Kandari, Kuwaiti ambassador to Cairo, also attended the meeting.

Kuwaiti Minister Views Military Ties

NC2711210389 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 27 Nov 89

[Text] Kuwaiti Defense Minister Shaykh Nawwaf al-Ahmad has said that Egypt and Kuwait will continue the progress in their military relations and increase their cooperation in joint military production.

In remarks following a visit to the factories of the Arab Industrialization Organization, Al-Ahmad called on Arab countries to work toward establishing a joint Arab military industry capable of producing all advanced weapons and meeting the needs of Arab military forces, thus ending the dependence on Eastern and Western weapons. The minister praised the progress made by the Egyptian military industry, adding that this industry meets international standards.

Kuwaiti Minister Departs 28 Nov

NC2811125589 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0943 GMT 28 Nov 89

[Text] Cairo, 28 Nov (MENA)—Kuwaiti Defense Minister Shaykh Nawwaf al-Ahmad left Cairo this morning for home after a 3-day visit to Egypt during which he was received by President Husni Mubarak and Prime Minister Dr 'Atif Sidqi. In the course of his visit, the Kuwaiti defense minister held talks with General Yusuf Sabri Abu-Talib, minister of defense and war production, on the various aspects of military relations between the two countries and ways of promoting bilateral cooperation. The Kuwaiti minister also visited the Arab Industrialization Organization.

In a predeparture statement, the Kuwaiti minister said he had been pleased to visit his second country, Egypt, and to meet with President Mubarak and Prime Minister Dr 'Atif Sidqi. He expressed his sincere thanks and gratitude to General Abu-Talib and to all the departments in the Egyptian Armed Forces. Shaykh Nawwaf al-Ahmad said President Mubarak and Prime Minister Sidqi had asked him to convey their regards and best wishes to His Royal Highness Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah, the amir of Kuwait; the heir apparent; and the Kuwaiti people.

Regarding his talks in Egypt, the Kuwaiti minister said they concentrated on ways of promoting bilateral military cooperation and exchanging expertise and technical information, as part of the fraternal cooperation between the two sisterly countries, which was crowned by the visit of Kuwaiti Amir Shaykh Jabir to fraternal Egypt. He described his visit to Cairo as successful.

For his part, General Yusuf Sabri Abu-Talib, who saw the Kuwaiti guest off at the airport, said the Kuwaiti minister's visit is a landmark in the history of the relations between the two sisterly countries and their Armed Forces. He said the visit will significantly boost bilateral cooperation in all fields, as confirmed by the talks held with the Kuwaiti minister and by the success of previous cooperation, whether in the fields of rehabilitation, training, or armament. He stated that the success of these talks will open new horizons for the future. We believe, he asserted, that our destiny and security are one and the same and that the relations between the two peoples and leaders are fraternal.

Ambassador to UN Addresses General Assembly

NC2711222689 Cairo MENA in English 2215 GMT 27 Nov 89

[Text] New York, Nov 27 (MENA)—Ambassador 'Abdl-al-Halim Badawi, Egypt's chief delegate to the UN, warned against the escalation of tensions in the Middle East as a result of introducing more advanced weapons to the region and Israel's testing of a medium-range missile on the Mediterranean shores, which would jeopardize the security and stability of all the region's states.

Badawi further poitned out the accurate information, being daily circulated, about the nature of Israel's nuclear programme and its cooperation with South Africa in the strategic military field.

In his speech tonight before the UN General Assembly, Ambassador Badawi underlined that Israel's continued approach in that manner would inevitably lead to a very strong and dangerous arms race in a region, already with enough problems.

At the beginning of a debate on the situation in the Middle East, Ambassador 'Abd-al-Halim Badawi said that Egypt reiterated its firm stance, represented in the fact that the international conference on peace in the Mideast should be convened under the UN auspices and based on the two Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 and the Palestinian People's legitimate rights.

Egypt's stance, Badawi went on to say, aims at reaching through negotiation, a comprehensive and peaceful solution to the Mideast problem.

Egypt supports the effective participation, in the conference, of all parties concerned, including the PLO, in addition to its backing the participation of the Security Council's five permanent states.

Interior Minister Urges Death for Drug Users

PM2711143989 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 21 Nov 89 p 3

[Unattributed report: "Issue of Egyptian Workers in Iraq Discussed at Presidential Level"]

[Text] Abu Dhabi, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT Gulf Bureau—Egyptian Interior Minister Major General Zaki Badr has announced that the issue of the Egyptian workers in Iraq is being discussed at the level of the two heads of state, that the matter is under control, and that it is in the two countries' interests to contain any dispute. At a press conference in Abu Dhabi the Egyptian interior minister said that it was unwise to escalate the disputes by appealing to emotions, because these were isolated incidents, despite the numbers of victims.

Asked whether, after the normalization of Egyptian-Libyan relations, Egypt would extradite to Tripoli the Libyan opposition members remaining in Egypt, Maj Gen Zaki Badr said that this was a political matter and that the normalization of relations between the two countries would definitely have security effects.

But he said that never in its history had Egypt, or any other civilized state, extradited any political refugee. He added that the United Nations itself bans the extradition of political refugees and protects the right of political asylum.

Answering a question on his position on the fundamentalist groups, the Egyptian interior minister said that he is against extremism, whatever its source or form.

He added that he could not imagine the adoption of the method of dialogue with a group adopting the method of violence and arms. He said that Islam is the religion of tolerance and love. As for the extremists hiding under the cover of Islam, they are trying to mislead others.

Asked whether the Arab Cooperation Council states were in the process of approving identity cards instead of passports for their citizen's movements, the Egyptian minister said that this is a formal matter and that approval of the card does not mean facilitating movement, just as keeping passports does not mean complicating movement.

He said that, if certain people were unwanted, they would not gain entry whether they had passports or identity cards.

Asked whether Egypt is seeking to sign any security agreements or agreements on extraditing criminals with the region's states, Maj Gen Badr said that agreements with the Gulf states are not necessarily written agreements; what is important is sincere intentions, not the signing of papers.

Maj Gen Zaki Badr said in his news conference that he personally supports the death penalty for those who take drugs, so that these poisons will have no market in the Arab region.

He added that drug-taking contributes to spreading and worsening the drug-trafficking phenomenon, and that there must be decisiveness without any sympathy in order to eliminate that phenomenon.

But the Egyptian minister said that he was expressing his personal view, indicating that Egyptian law—despite the severe punishment for drugs-trafficking, which can even mean capital punishment—still differentiates between drug-taker and drug-trafficker, and its articles stipulate the setting up of sanatoriums to treat drug addicts, financed from the funds confiscated from drug traffickers.

Maj Gen Badr said the subject of combating drugs dominated a major part of his talks with security officials in the Arab Gulf states and that he agrees with them on a number of steps to coordinate and cooperate in that field. But he refused to reveal any details in that regard, pointing out that it is preferable, security wise, not reveal any of the anti-drugs methods agreed on in order to prevent smugglers from developing their methods in the region.

Mauritania

President Castigates Senegal's 'Negative' Stand

LD2711231589 Nouakchott Domestic Service in Arabic 2030 GMT 27 Nov 89

[Address to the nation by Mauritanian President Maaouiya Ould Sid'ahmed Taya, on independence anniversary—live or recorded]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. Prayers be upon his blessed messenger, the prophet. Brothers and sister citizens, today, 28 November 1989, is an occasion for our people to mark the 29th anniversary of our country's independence. [passage omitted]

Dear citizens, who among you does not still remember the scandals that characterized the massacre directed against our citizens who were living in Senegal, and which was marked, among other things, by the deportation of a large number of citizens from Senegal, in addition to the confiscation and theft of their possessions? The perpertrators of these crimes in Senegal succeeded in destroying the bridges of friendship and brotherhood as well as the common interests that our two peoples had built throughout the centuries.

Those incidents, whose victims were our dear and large community in Senegal, were not accidental. Those abhorrent incidents were fuelled by slogans during previous electoral campaigns. Therefore, Senegal would have inflicted a deep gash in relations between the two peoples and the two countries.

Following those ugly incidents, Senegal and its helpers mounted false propaganda campaigns. Thus, some countries were influenced by these propaganda campaigns and expressed attitudes accordingly. They only reviewed these attitudes objectively following the visits paid to our country by some officials, who were able to acquaint themselves with the facts as they truly stand.

Everybody should seek the true facts today so that international public opinion is able to clearly define the responsibilities and find suitable solutions. In this connection, the Islamic Republic of Mauritania remains ready to accept a peaceful settlement to this conflict, which was created and fuelled against its will. It is worth noting that any just settlement should inevitably aim at returning the money confiscated [by Senegal] compensating our citizens and guaranteeing peace and granting freedom to our citizens in Senegal to return to their homeland.

We have responded to all mediations. However, the obstructive stand of the other side prevented any progress toward finding a final solution to this conflict; even the exchange of agreements has not materialized. In fact, in addition to the obstruction of any political solution, Senegal is always glad to fuel the tension either through provocative statements or through the organization of aggressive acts against our country.

Despite all of Senegal's negative positions, we will remain ready to avoid anything that could fuel the tension, while safeguarding the security of our citizens and the territorial integrity of our country. [passage omitted]

Foreign Minister Comments on Dispute With Senegal

LD2111173989 Paris International Service in French 1230 GMT 21 Nov 89

[Excerpts] The Senegal River is an international waterway. This is the position of Mauritania and its minister of foreign affairs and cooperation, Cheik Sid'ahmed Ould Baba. He repeated this today in Paris where he was passing through and where he held a news conference. Let us listen to him speaking to our correspondent Alain Grumberg:

[Begin recording] [Ould Baba] We have a situation which we inherited from the colonial period and which says that the river is a border between the Islamic Republic of Mauritania and Senegal and that this river is an international waterway, the joint property of the three states. This is also stated by the charter of the OMVS, the Organization for the Development of the Senegal River, to which we all belong—Senegal, Mali, and Mauritania.

[Grumberg] At what stage are the OAU-led negotiations?

[Ould Baba] They are currently deadlocked through the instransigence of Senegal on these border questions which I repeat are in no way connected with the basic matters which have arisen from this crisis. [passage omitted]

[Grumberg] The Mauritanian minister of foreign affairs holds Senegal responsible for the frequent incidents on both sides of the river. Cheik Sid'ahmed Ould Baba says:

[Ould Baba] The only incidents which occur are incidents executed by armed bands trained by the Senegalese authorities who cross the river to come and attack and plunder peaceful Mauritanian citizens. It is a very serious situation for which Senegal must assume sole responsibility and which at any rate cannot go on.

[Grumberg] Are there not Mauritanians on the other side of the river who go over to the Senegalese side to do the same thing?

[Ould Baba] We Mauritanians have contained all the Mauritanians who have been repatriated on the right bank and we have never allowed Mauritanians to cross for any reason to bother the Senegalese citizens.

[Grumberg] Where is the Mauritanian Army at present, along the river or further back?

[Ould Baba] The Mauritanian Army is at its positions, further back in comparision with what is happening on the edge of the river.

[Grumberg] Do you mean that it will not intervene at any time?

[Ould Baba] The Mauritanian Army is not intervening at any time in what is going on there.

[Grumberg] Do you fear an armed conflict between the two countries?

[Ould Baba] I have said that the situation created by Senegal upriver, making bands cross over to come and attack the Mauritanian citizens and plunder their property, is a very serious action and consequently unpredictable. [end recording]

More on Relations With Senegal

AB2211123389 London BBC World Service in English 0730 GMT 22 Nov 89

[From the "Network Africa" program]

[Text] Relations between Mauritania and Senegal have been cool, to say the least, since the communal violence and mass expulsions of each other's citizens earlier this year. Well, this month, the row blew up again. The Senegalese authorities accused the Mauritanians of aggression on their common border. Well, the Mauritanian foreign minister, Cheik Sid'ahmed Ould Baba, is on a visit to Paris this week. He was talking to Devina Dougan about the tense relations between the two countries. Devina asked him, first of all, for his response to Senegal's accusations.

[Begin recording] [Ould Baba] This is not true. We have no forces on the border. These clashes are coming from armed people from Senegal, crossing the Mauritanian border and killing people in Mauritania and taking their properties. This is a very dangerous situation for peace in this region.

[Dougan] Senegal claims the land belongs to Senegal. Mauritania claims the land belongs to Mauritania. So, where do you go from here [words indistinct]?

[Ould Baba] We claim only our land on the right bank of Senegal River. The OAU mediation is going on, and we hope it will bring a peaceful solution to this problem.

[Dougan] What do you want from the Senegalese?

[Ould Baba] We want them to recognize that the Mauritanian community, which was in Senegal, thousands of this community have been killed and have been dispossessed of their properties and this is the main problem. Any other problem is an attempt to put aside the real problem.

[Dougan] If there was some move on the part of Senegal toward some kind of compensation, toward the Mauritanians who were in Senegal, would that bring Mauritania toward the negotiating table?

[Ould Baba] Yes, we have always said that recognizing this matter would be helpful to finding a solution to the problem, and not like the Senegalese do, raising false problems like those of frontiers.

[Dougan] The Senegalese have, however, claimed that Iraq is supplying Mauritania with arms [words indistinct] to Mauritania to be used in the border area. What do you say to that?

[Ould Baba] I say that cooperation between our country and Iraq has been for a long time going on, and it has nothing to do with the present Senegalese-Mauritania crisis.

[Dougan] With this present stalemate it seems that neither side is willing to make any concessions. Are you fearful that an all-out conflict could break out?

[Ould Baba] I do not. But if Senegalese continue to send armed people to the Mauritanian border, this is a very dangerous situation. [end recording]

Sudan

Student Demonstrations, Doctors' Strike Reported

EA2811165089 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in English 1300 GMT 28 Nov 89

[Text] SPLA/SPLM [Sudanese People's Liberation Army/Movement] sources in Khartoum have confirmed that the general mobilization among the masses of the Sudanese people for civil disobedience has reached a very advanced stage.

Yesterday Khartoum witnessed student demonstrations, with slogans calling for the overthrow of the military dictatorial regime and the return to democracy. In a similar development, the professional unions in meetings held on 24 and 25 instant have resolved to enter into civil disobedience until the dictatorial regime of 'Umar al-Bashir is overthrown. Our sources add that other sections of the Sudanese society are expected to join this concerted action against the junta.

Reports from Khartoum say six doctors of the doctors' trade union have been arbitrarily arrested during the last 2 days. They are: Dr Ahmad al-Tijani al-Tahir, chairman of the doctors' union: Dr al-Fatih 'Umar Said, member: Dr (al-Shaykh Kennay), member: Dr (Hasan Shatah), member: Dr (al-Shalasi), member. All six doctors belong to Khartoum Hospital. Similar arrests have and are being made in all the various regions. Their names shall follow once obtained.

These mass arrests have resulted in a general strike by the doctors all over Sudan, with effect as from yesterday, Monday, 27 November 1989. Students of the faculty of medicine in support of the doctors' strike took the street of Khartoum main market, where they were joined by a crowd of people, before they were dispersed by riot police using whips and tear gas. A series of strikes by various trade unions followed suit. It is widely believed that this is the beginning of mass action against the junta aimed at toppling it.

Group Leaves for Talks With Garang's Movement

EA2811213189 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic
1750 GMT 28 Nov 89

[Text] Khartoum 28 Nov (SUNA)—Staff Colonel Muhammad al- Amin Khalifah, Revolution Command Council member, left Khartoum this evening for Nairobi, heading a government delegation for peace negotiations with John Garang's movement, which begin Friday, 1 December, in Nairobi. The delegation includes 15 members from the national dialogue conference on peace issues.

Col Muhammad al-Amin Khalifah expressed hope this round of negotiations, which is the second between the government and the movement after the round in Addis Ababa last August, would succeed in laying the foundations of peace in the country.

His excellency told the press before leaving Khartoum airport there are many elements helping ensure the success of this round, particularly that it is being conducted following the national dialogue on peace issues.

Col Muhammad al-Amin Khalifah said some questions submitted by the movement during the first round of negotiations, such as the identity of Sudan, the system of government, and the relationship between religion and state, all had found answers in the national dialogue conference, and would be (?discussed) during the second round of negotiations. Col Muhammad al-Amin said: We ask the rebel movement's delegation, led by Lam Akol, to put forward their views.

RCC Member on Garang Talks

PM2711110389 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 17 Nov 89 p 2

[Unattributed report: "Cairo Makes Contacts With Garang Movement"]

[Excerpts] Khartoum, Cairo, Kampala, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT, news agencies—Sudan yesterday rejected accusations by Uganda that Sudanese aircraft raided a northern Ugandan village, killing three people. Brigadier General 'Uthman Ahmad Hasan, member of the Sudanese National Salvation Revolution Command Council who is now on a visit to Uganda, said it would be illogical for Sudanese aircraft to embark on such a raid while we have a peace delegation in Kampala. [passage omitted]

Meanwhile, well informed sources in Cairo have told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that in recent days Egypt has contacted some African states and the Sudanese People's Liberation Movement led by John Garang in order to inform him of the Sudanese Government's request in connection with organizing a new round of dialogue between the two parties in Cairo to agree on a settlement to the problem of the South and put a halt on any new military operations by both sides.

The sources said that Egypt has asked the British Government to play an effective role in contributing to ending the problem of the South, especially with regard to the African Commonwealth member tates, and persuading Garang to agree to negotiate with the Sudanese Revolution Command Council [RCC] without any preconditions. [passage omitted]

In an exclusive statement to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT, Brigadier General Faysal Abu-Salih, RCC member and interior minister, emphasized that Egypt played a major part in containing the war in the South, indicating that that role is still continuing.

He also said that Egyptian President Husni Mubarak intends to send delegations to some African states in order to work to persuade the movement to sit down at the negotiating table, especially as the atmosphere is now favorable for resolving the problem of the South. He also emphasized that during President Mubarak's visits to numerous African states the issue of the war in the south has always been high on his agenda during his talks with many heads of state.

On the possibility of holding negotiations with the Garang movement despite the continuation of the war, he said: Actually the war is a painful reality imposed on us and we are compelled to engage in it; but, despite this, we still continue to call for peace and negotiation.

Asked whether the RCC intends to abolish the September laws so that the RCC can last longer or will keep them for application, Brig Gen Faysal stressed that that the Islamic Shari'ah laws have nothing to do with the RCC's remaining in power. This is because the Islamic laws were chosen as a program by a broad base. Anyhow, the federal system can absorb the dispute over the application of the Shari'ah.

Asked what would be the position of a Southerner living in the North if the Shari'ah is applied in the North, Brig Gen Faysal said: Of course if that happens, he would be subjected to the prevailing law. The same thing applies in the South as well. And this is the solution adopted in the states applying federal laws like the United States, where each state has its own laws which are respected by the other states.

Economic Salvation Conference Holds Final Meeting

Al-Bashir Addresses Conference

EA2211122789 Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic 1930 GMT 21 Nov 89

[Text] Lieutenant General 'Umar Hasan Ahmad al-Bashir, chairman of the National Salvation Revolution Command Council [NSRCC], this evening addressed the final meeting of the national conference for economic salvation, which was conducted 30 October to 21 November at the Friendship Hall in Khartoum. At the beginning of his address, Lt Gen 'Umar greeted the participants and members of the diplomatic corps and guests. He praised the recommendations the conference had put forward. He also praised the conference participants. He said the NSRCC and the council of ministers are looking forward to the results of this conference, and they will strive to implement them.

The chairman of the NSRCC asked the participants to brief citizens on the resolutions and recommendations of the conference. He said the revolution's aims focus on self-reliance in various (?aspects) of life and its demands. His excellency stressed the necessity of a just distribution of national resources. He also praised the conference's interest in rural development, which will strive to solve the phenomenon of migration.

He said the state's raising of some (word indistinct] of some commodities was due to objective factors. They should be tolerated, and there should be sacrifices to improve Sudan's economic situation. He pointed out the revolution will strive to help citizens to face this increase. In this connection, Lt Gen 'Umar announced the establishment of a special fund to support the poor and those with limited income. He also announced (?a) donation for the fund, amounting to 10 million pounds. Lt Gen 'Umar affirmed the revolution will strive to direct every piaster in his country for the benefit of the homeland and the citizens.

Lt Gen 'Umar pointed out the new agreement reached on negotiations with the rebels' movement was made possible through the efforts of former American President Jimmy Carter. He said the unification of the internal front [word indistinct] world public opinion that the revolution's moves to establish peace were a victory for the voice of reason and a victory for tomorrow's brilliant Sudan. He added the course of dialogue and consultation was being pursued by the revolution, and it would be a contiuous dialogue. He said conferences were following up the [word indistinct] national dialogue on various aspects of life and the issues affecting the country.

Conference Issues Final Report

EA2311072689 Khartoum SUNA in English 0935 GMT 22 Nov 89

[Text] Khartoum, 22 Nov (SUNA)—The national conference for economic salvation [words indistinct] yesterday, under the chairmanship of the member of the Revolution Command Council and chairman of the conference, Col. Salah Al-Din Muhammad Ahmad Karrar, the conference's final recommendations.

The conference's final report reviewed the [word indistinct] economic problems which was represented in the scarcity inflation, unemployment [words indistinct] productivity, budget deficit and debts.

The report attributed the socioeconomic deterioration to the political and social instability, absence of political and (?socioeconomic) philosophy, which directs the economic activity in a bid to serve the objectives of the society.

It also said that administrative corruption, irrational consumption patterns, deterioration of the infrastructures, the instability of the economic and financial policies and the economic programme had contributed much to the ailing economy. The report recommended the necessity of creating an economic philosophy based on cultural values, and focused on the environmental, materialistic and spiritual dimensions of the citizens.

On the socioeconomic objectives, the [words indistinct] recommended the importance of maintaining the individual and nation's dignity, realising regional integrated development, promoting material and human resources, preserving the environment, fair distribution of wealth, and handling the production and infrastructures deterioration.

Regarding the economic guidelines, the report recommended that productive work should be based on competition and self-reliance, in a bid to mobilise resources for better development. It proposed adoption of cooperation policy with regional and international organisations, to boost the national effort and integration.

The conference stressed the necessity of concentrating on production and investment, contribution of the banking system to the development, adoption of planning in all fields.

The report called for creating integrated economic policies, conducting administrative reform for government units, stressing the [word indistinct] role in boosting the economy, and giving top priority to peace, security and defence issues, in accordance with the recommendations of the national dialogue on peace.

The conference urged handling the gap between actual resources and expenditure, a matter that compelled the government to depend on foreign aid. The report suggested the increase of the gnp, reformation of public institutions, combatting of tax evasion and establishment of a fund to finance to rehabilitation of manpower surplus [as received].

On the monetary policies, the conference issued a number of recommendations pertinent to the realisation of monetary stability [words indistinct], organising border trade, rationalising importation, setting up of a national council for prices, encouraging joint investment, repaying critical foreign debts.

Regarding the human resources, the report recommended the establishment of a higher council for human resources, adoption of the federal system as a basis for formulating systems of administering the economy, formation of a higher council for natural resources and regional bodies of planning to support the statistics department, and creating a central apparatus to study the existing situation of the institutions.

The conference called for providing suitable technology, and to work out serious policies to realise food security.

The conference also recommended consolidating transportation, energy and infrastructures sectors, rehabilitation of southern Sudan, boosting the agricultural, animal wealth and rural water fields.

The report proposed the promotion of industry, mining, service and public utilities sectors, to support the budget by increasing the revenues, controlling the public accounts and solving the problems of the public institutions.

The conference was convened during 30th October to 21st November at the friendship hall.

Libya Contacts, Releases Linked to Carter Visit

PM2711150989 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 22 Nov 89 pp 1-2

['Uthman Mirghani report: "Sudanese Sources Tells AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT: Al-Bashir Visited Libya After His Meeting With Carter"]

[Excerpt] London, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—Sudanese sources have revealed to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that Lieutenant General 'Umar Hasan Ahmad al-Bashir, chairman of the Command Council of the National Salvation Revolution in Sudan, made an unannounced visit to Libya last Saturday after his meeting with former U.S. President Jimmy Carter, who visited Khartoum for 24 hours to mediate in the war in southern Sudan and arrange a meeting between the Sudanese Government and the Garang movement.

The sources noted Al-Bashir's visit to Libya, which he began Saturday and ended Sunday, came amid strong rumors in Khartoum about the release of the leaders of the major political parties—Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi, former prime minister and leader of the Ummah Party; Muhammad 'Uthman al-Mirghani, leader of the Democratic Unionist Party; Dr Hasan al-Turabi, secretary general of the National Islamic Front; and Muhammad Ibrahim Nuqud, secretary general of the Sudanese Communist Party—detained in Kabar Prison in north Khartoum.

The sources pointed out U.S. President Carter probably raised the subject of the detained political leaders with Lt Gen al-Bashir, especially as Carter had raised that subject during a previous visit to Sudan. He asked the chairman of the National Salvation Revolution Command Council to allow a delegation of Western diplomats to visit these politicians in Kabar Prison, and Lt Gen al-Bashir responded to that.

The sources also said the Sudanese authorities actually sent a number of soldiers to the homes of the detained political leaders in a move interpreted as designed to arrange the return of these political leaders to their homes and put them under house arrest. The soldiers stayed at the politicians' homes for 12 hours before instructions were issued to them to withdraw.

The sources pointed out Lt Gen al-Bashir's visit to Libya was not announced in Khartoum. But it was noted it coincided with what was reported in Khartoum about the detainees' release and with the announcement of President Carter's success in arranging a round of negotiations between the Sudanese Government and the Garang movement, to be early next month.

A Sudanese military delegation headed by Colonel Muhammad 'Ali Khalifah visited Libya last Wednesday. And another delegation headed by Brigadier General Al-Tajani Adam al-Tahir visited Tripoli last Thursday and stayed there for 2 days; it left at noon Saturday, and Lt Gen al-Bashir arrived on the same evening. [passage omitted]

Official Denies Soldiers' Execution Charges

EA2111115889 Omdurman Domestic Service in English 1950 GMT 20 Nov 89

[Text] Ustadh 'Ali Muhammad Shummu, minister of culture and information and the official government spokesman, refuted yesterday the allegations of the Arab Lawyers Federation [ALF], broadcast by London radio that 21 soldiers—14 from southern Sudan and seven from the Nubah tribe—were condemned to death by firing squad. Shummu said that the news is [word indistinct] void of truth and baseless. He said that this irresponsible news was hurriedly disseminated by irresponsible parties.

The ALF, he continued to say, did not consider its ethical responsibility as a union representing the Arab nation. The minister expressed astonishment for such a malicious statement which involves sedition, grudges and depicts the Arabs in the Sudan as killers of the southerners and Nubahs—[words indistinct] motivation.

He said that there are elements in the ALF who have personal reasons to take such a conduct of hatred and grudges, and called on the union to belie this fabricated news, as the Sudan is a member of the Arab League. Sayyid Shummu demanded the ALF, to whom the news reporting is attributed, to belie this information and asked the lawyers union to be courageous to deny or refute false allegations and make apologies to the Sudanese people.

Junta Delegation Ends 2-Week African Tour

EA2311084189 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1040 GMT 22 Nov 89

[Text] Khartoum, 22 Nov (SUNA)—Brigadier Uthman Ahmad Hasan, Command Council member, who led a delegation to the national peace dialogue conference, has described his tour of Zaire, Tanzania, Uganda, Kenya, and Salia as successful and as having contributed toward clarifying the facts of the situation in Sudan. He said after returning home yesterday that during the 2-week tour the delegation had succeeded in explaining to the presidents and peoples of the countries visited the revolution's peace efforts. He said it also succeeded in refuting false allegations propagated by Garang's movement on the nature of the conflict—that it was a conflict between the Muslim Arab north and the Christian African south. He said he had briefed the five countries' presidents on the resolutions adopted by the conference, which had accepted the federal system as a solution to all Sudan's basic problems, such as the distribution of power and natural resources and the (?problem) of the relationship between religion and the state.

Tunisia

Libya's Jallud, Delegation Arrive for Meeting

LD2711221689 Tripoli JANA in English 1745 GMT 27 Nov 89

[Excerpts] Tunis, Al-Harth [November] 27, Jamahiriyah News Agency—Staff Major 'Abd al-Salam Ahmad Jallud and Major al-Khuwaylidi al-Humaydi arrived in Tunis this afternoon to attend the fifth round of the supreme follow-up committee between Great Jamahiriyah and sisterly Tunisia. [passage omitted]

Accompanying both Staff Major Jallud and Major al-Khuwaylidi al-Humaydi is a Libyan Arab delegation consisting of the assistant secretary of the General People's Committee, the secretary of the General People's Committee, the secretary of the Arab Maghreb Union's Affairs, a number of members of the General People's Committee, a number of specialists and technicans from various secretariats of Great Jamahiriyah. [passage omitted]

Staff Major 'Abd al-Salam Ahmad Jallud gave a statement to journalists beginning by indicating that horizons were opened by the victory of the Arab people of Tunisia on November 7 "which gave us these unity. Practical historical transformative aspirations." [as received]

He said: "We have confidence in brother president Zine El Abidine Ben Ali, in all the nationalist powers and the powers of goodness in Tunisia. We are fully confident in our Arab masses in Tunisia and in Libya. This is a big transformational process in which we give example to our nation and to the Arab Maghreb. We give the example because this is the era of example providing."

In his statement, Staff Major Jallud added: "When we talk about unity and we call for the unity of the Arab nation, we must provide the example in Libya and in Tunisia. The issue of unity work, following these dramatic changes in the world, has become the only option and no other option exists."

He pointed out: "The political will, the awareness in such transformation process and the unity work are a test to the extent of the independence of our resolution, because the world now began to head for the unity...as is happening in Germany and Korea."

Staff Major Jallud concluded by saying: Unity is revolution. It is the solution for the one who seeks dignity and progress. For the one who looks for better living-standard and seeking growth. The unity is the only option. The demographic structure in Tunisia and in Libya, the melting, the amalgamation and economic structuring are all elements for the benifit of Libya and Tunisia presenting a unity example in those Arab Maghreb and the Arab nation.

"We in Libya have confidence in brother president Zine El Abidine Ben Ali and in all honest nationalist freedom-fighters. We have confidence in the Arab people of Tunisia and ready to share everyting and link our destinies together."

Further on Meeting

LD2911002589 Tripoli JANA in English 1429 GMT 28 Nov 89

[Text] Tunis, Al-Harth [November] 28, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—Yesterday afternoon, in the headquarters of the cabinet in Tunis, the 5th session started of the supreme follow-up committee between Great al-Jamahiriyah and sisterly Tunisia.

The meeting was attended by Staff Major 'Abd al-Salam Ahmad Jallud, Major al-Khuwalidi al-Humaydi, the Tunisian Premier Karoui, the assistant secretary of the General People's Congress, the secretary of the General People's Committee, the secretary of the People's Committee of the People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison, the secretary of the General People's Committee for Information, the Foreign Minister Escheikh, the interior minister, Mr. Neffati, the Minister of National Defence Mr. Kallel, the Minister of national Economy Mr. Belaid, the minister of social affairs Mr. Roussi, the secretary general of the Democratic Destourian rally in Tunisia Mr. Zouari and a number of experts and technicians in various specialities in both sisterly countries.

Staff Major Abd al-Salam Ahmad Jallud, in the opening session, gave a talk reiterating the resolve to achieve Arab unity among the one Arab people in Great al-Jamahiriyah and Tunisia.

He says we want this meeting a qualitative transformation because we are conducting a historic transformational operation affecting the question of Palestine, the Arab and Islamic nations and the world at large.

He warns against the machinations of the enemies of the Arab nation towards any unionist tendency or action pointing out in this regard to the stances assumed by the U.S. and the West.

These stances, he adds, are clear to us because they are against unity pointing out that the more dangerous anti-unionist culture prevalent among us for centuries.

He continues that it is easier for us to face up to clear enemy than encountering a regionalistic or bureaucratic culture, or rather still a helpless and backward and secluded unto itself culture.

He warns against the forces hostile to unity adding that the power maniacs are the foes of unity.

He has given a number of observations and viewpoints over the process of work of the committees and the ways conducive to promoting the unionist steps among the one Arab people in Great al-Jamahiriyah and Tunisia to attain the goal aspired for, namely, the all-embracing Arab unity extending from the ocean to the Gulf.

Mr. Karoui, the premier of sisterly Tunisia, in his speech, has welcomed Staff Major Jallud and Major al-Humaydi and their Libyan Arab acompanying delegation pointing out the steps taken down the road of integration and unity between Great al-Jamahiriyah and sisterly Tunisia.

He has stressed the presence of the genuine political will in both countries to achieve Arab unity.

Concluding his talk, Mr. Karoui has said that this meeting reconfirms once again the genuine orientations among the one Arab people in Great al-Jamahiriyah and Tunisia giving a strong impetus down the road of the Arab Maghreb unity as a step towards the achievement of the over-all Arab unity.

Ben Ali, Al-Qadhdhafi Discuss Ties, Arab Issues

LD2011123989 Tunis TAP in Arabic 1200 GMT 20 Nov 89

[Text] Carthage, Palace of the Republic, 20 Nov—A telephone conversation today between His Excellency President Zine el Abidine Ben Ali and Colonel al-Qadhdhafi, leader of the Libyan revolution, centered on Tunisian-Libyan fraternal relations and ways to bolster and consolidate them. This conversation also dealt with issues of mutual interest, particularly the affairs of the Arab Maghreb Union.

Ben Ali Meets Pakistani Foreign Affairs Minister

LD2711121189 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 25 Nov 89

[Excerpts] President Ben Ali received Pakistani Foreign Affairs Minister Sahabzada Yaqub Khan in the presence of Foreign Affairs Minister Abdelhamid Escheikh. [passage omitted]

Sahabzada Yaqub Khan expressed thanks to the president of the republic, the government and the Tunisian people, for the support Tunisia is giving the Afghan cause. [passage omitted]

Islamic Movement Protests Ban on Religious Party

PM2111155689 Paris LE MONDE in French 11 Nov 89 p 6

[Jean de la Gueriviere dispatch: "Islamic Movement Condemns Influence of 'Secular Left'"]

[Text] Tunis—The Tunisian Islamic movement says it is very disappointed by the speech on Tuesday 7 November in which Mr Ben Ali closed the door to any "religious party." But it denied seeking confrontation and still wants "direct dialogue" with the head of state. According to Abdelfattah Mourou, spokesman for the Renaissance movement, "that speech contains nothing interesting in the economic or political sphere. He has said 'no' to the Islamic movement and, since that is the case, he should have said it back on 7 November 1987" (the day on which Mr Bourguiba was ousted—LE MONDE editor's note).

According to Mr Mourou, the head of state's verdict on the Renaissance Party has been distorted by the influence of his entourage, notably by the "secular left which invaded the government party after 7 November 1979." The lawyer does not feel "affected" by the presidential rejection of a "religious party" because, according to him, the Renaissance Party is not a religious party and does not claim to have "a monopoly on Islam."

In the immediate future, to avoid making matters worse by forcing the government to make a decision which would clearly be negative, the Renaissance movement will not submit another request for official recognition following the first refusal, which it suffered in June.

The Algerian Example [subhead]

Democratic Socialist Movement Secretary General Mohamed Mouadda gave a press conference on Thursday in which he described the president's speech as "very disappointing," although it "gave a few glimmers of hope for the future." "It is not up to any one man or any one party to determine the rate of the democratic process," Mr Mestiri's successor said. Rejecting "democracy in dribs and drabs," he said "Algeria has now gone further than Tunisia" in the sphere of free debates in a multiparty system." "We are in favor of the recognition of the Renaissance movement," he added, "because that may support the moderate Muslims. Legalization of their party would make it possible to open the political struggle against them in a public, honest, and clear way."

The Communists took a slightly different tone, and Communist Party Secretary General Mohamed Harmel told us: "Although we may agree with the president about certain principles which he has asserted (reference to the statement that there is "no place" for a religious party—LE MONDE editor's note), we do not share his whole analysis of the situation; this analysis leads to the maintenance of the status quo, which likely is to weaken the democratic parties in favor of a bipolarization between the Constitutional Democratic Rally (the ruling party—LE MONDE editor's note) and the Islamic movement."

Western Sahara

Polisario Statement Criticizes Hassan Speech

LD2311221189 Algiers Television Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 23 Nov 89

[Text] Following the Moroccan Monarch King Hassan II's announcement to hold a referendum on December in order to postpone the legislative elections in Morocco, the Polisario Front today issued a statement considering such a decision as a maneuver to delay the chances of peace in Western Sahara. The Saharan statement considers the Moroccan monarch's decision as a rejection for the best possible solution through direct negotiations, and as an impediment to the UN and OAU efforts.

The international peace plan does not, furthermore, call upon King Hasan II to draw up any timetable for any election; rather it calls upon the two parties to immediately begin direct talks in order to draw up the conditions for holding a referendum without any military or administrative pressure, given the fact that the problem of Western Sahara is a decolonization issue and has nothing to do with Moroccan internal affairs, the Saharan statement added.

Polisario Figure on Possible Solutions to Conflict

LD2311235989 Paris International Service in French 1230 GMT 22 Nov 89

[Text] Mohamed Lamine, one of the leaders of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Saquia el Hamra and Rio de Oro, Polisario, who is passing through Paris, explained that his movement intends to continue its military operations against the Moroccan Army and will do so until Rabat fulfills certain conditions. Mohamed Lamine spoke to Mohamed Chakali.

[Begin Lamine recording] There are only two solutions. One is to negotiate and reach future relations between an independent Western Sahara and Morocco, the Kingdom of Morocco; that could be an easy [word indistinct] between the two parties to the conflict. That's the first and the ideal solution, to contribute to the great Maghreb. The second is if Morocco does not like this aspect of the Polisario Front, all it would have to do is apply the UN resolution, that's to say, direct negotiations, or else withdraw the Moroccan administration, the Moroccan Army, and the Moroccan colonists and give the territory to the (?UN or the OAU) to reach a final solution. [end recording]

Saharan Battle Report Notes October Activity

LD2111132689 Algiers APS in English 1015 GMT 21 Nov 89

[Text] SADR (L.T.) [Saharan Democratic Arab Republic (Liberated Territories)], 21/11/89 (APS)—"The Sahraui People's Liberation Army (SPLA) launched several attacks and pounderings against Moroccan forces during October," a communique from the SADR Information Ministry reported on Monday. "In this regard 108 attacks and pounderings were led against 29 bases of the Royal Armies Forces," the communique pointed out, adding that "the enemy positions in Guelta-Zemmour and Haouza were violently attacked and besieged by Saharan combattants on 7 and 11 October."

"The total amount of the military activity during this month resulted in the destruction and the recuperation of an important war material," the communique carried on, concluding: "48 Moroccan soldiers were imprisoned and the Moroccan forces deplore more than 40 dead and so many wounded."

Yemen Arab Republic

Minister on 'Important Steps' Toward Yemeni Unity

JN2111182789 Kuwait AL-WATAN in Arabic 20 Nov 89 pp 1, 18

[By Fadiyah al-Zu'bi]

[Text] Yahya Husayn al-'Arashi, minister of state for unity affairs in the northern part of Yemen, has said that during President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih's visit to Aden on the 30th of this month, the anniversary of the southern part's national day, important steps will be taken toward the attainment of Yemeni unity. This, he said, will herald a new stage of unionist action that will lead to full unity.

Replying to a telephone inquiry by AL-WATAN on the nature of the agreements that will be announced in Aden, al-'Arashi said they will include plans for a single representation of both parts of Yemen in international forums, the formation of a federal government, and the unification of foreign defense, parliament, and the judiciary.

Asked if his visit to Aden last week was aimed at paving the way for this event, he said consultations in this regard began at an early time, specifically since September 1988 and following the success of the May 1988 agreements that were signed by the two Yemeni presidents. Senior officials in both parts of Yemen also held talks and consultations during that time. A working team was formed from the two sides to discuss these issues and meetings were held in Aden and Sanaa and lately in Ta'izz. He added that the two [as published] working teams will soon meet to pave the way for the Yemeni summit, which will be held in Aden on the sidelines of its national day celebrations, and will complete their discussion of the subjects referred to them in this regard.

Minister al-'Arashi stressed that there is increasng enthusiasm for unity between the two parts of Yemen on the popular level as well as the level of the parliamentary institutions, the political organizations, and the legislative and executive bodies. He said this enthusiasm is a reflection of enthusiasm for national unity by the two political leaderships in the two parts represented by brother 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih and brother 'Ali Salim al-Bid.

Asked about the possibility of Democratic Yemen's accession to the Arab Cooperation Council after signing the unionist steps with the Yemen Arab Republic, a member of the Council, Minister al-'Arashi said this depends on the results of the summit and what the two leaderships decide.

Asked if there are any obstacles hampering this unity, the minister emphasized that the Yemeni will is capable of removing all obstacles.

Salih on Yemeni Unity, Visit to U.S.

JN2311183789 Kuwait AL-RA'Y AL-'AMM in Arabic 22 Nov 89 pp 24, 25

[Interview with President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih of Yemen Arab Republic by AL-RA'Y AL-'AMM Publisher 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Masa'id in Sanaa—date not given]

[Excerpts] Publisher: Your Excellency the president. Since our arrival in Sanaa, you and your brothers along with the Consultative Council and the Advisory Council, as well as specialized committees, have been busy making the requisite arrangements for the proclamation of unity between the two sisterly halves. What is the latest development on the unity front—the hope of the one Yemeni people?

President Salih: [Passage omitted] Our brothers in the south and we are in the middle of a process to reach an advanced stage of unity. We in the north stand for a gradualist approach that begins with the two halves assimilating in a melting pot. The tendency is for launching "the Yemen Republic" ahead of a complete merger. One of the options is unity in the areas of defense and foreign policy. It will be an advanced step on the road to a full merger and a local government in each of the two halves. We envisage a united policy and retention of the Yemen Socialist Party [YSP] in the southern half and the General People's Congress in the northern half. A committee will evaluate the experiment. It is a unique exercise for the YSP and the General People's Congress in the north. It should have its political, economic, and social implications. We will try to draw on similar experiences in the world—both in the east and west—discarding the negative aspects.

Publisher: And your upcoming visit to the southern half?

President Salih: A committee from the north is to meet with brothers from the south to prepare the visit to Aden on 30 November. It is hoped that during the visit, we will be able to sign a practical unionist measure. There is a groundswell of popular support for immediate unity both in the north and south. If, as we hope and expect, the idea finds favor with our brothers in the south the designation will be the Yemeni Republic.

Publisher: Why not the Arab Yemeni Republic?

President Salih: (Smiling) Our Arab credentials in Yemen are something rooted in history and have never been in doubt.

Publisher: What will be the standing of 'Ali Nasir Muhammad, former president of the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen, and thousands from the southern half now residing in the north against the backdrop of the projected proclamation of unity?

President Salih: I do not think this will present a problem—here or in the south. The freedom of movement between the two halves of Yemen, free from complications, enhances the credibility of our unionist approach in both parts of the country. [passage omitted]

Publisher: Allow me to open the Palestinian file. What about Israel's rejection of the proposed peace initiatives? What about the future of the Palestine question and the Palestinian people's rights after the many peace initiatives proposed by the PLO to Israel, which insists on rejection? What do you think?

President Salih: The Israeli negative and intransigent stand is not unusual. The PLO, the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people, has offered many concessions to prove goodwill. The PLO is the concerned side and Palestinian decisionmaker. Regrettably, Israel has always been negative, intransigent, and opposed to any solution or initiative. We cannot expect anything good from the Zionist entity or its obstruction of concessions and initiatives. Israel always demands more. Israel will never meet the concessions with goodwill. Israel's policy in this regard is clear. It is based on obstructing and rejecting peace efforts and rejecting the PLO initiatives so as to keep the occupied Palestinian territory.

Publisher: What is the alternative in your excellency's opinion?

President Salih: Frankly, the issue needs a unified and constant Arab stand to support the Palestinian people and the valiant intifadah with money and political action and with material and moral support by both governments and individuals capable of providing support in our nation. If the struggle is continuously supported, the occupiers will be forced to leave the Palestinian land and the Palestinians will restore their rights. The land occupied by force can only be retaken by force.

Publisher: Well, is armed struggle included within this force required to restore the usurped rights?

President Salih: Force has many meanings. It also exists in effective political action and in the continuation of the Palestinian people's struggle and blessed intifadah in the occupied territories. Force also exists in the psychological mobilization of the Palestinian people to make them constantly demand their rights. Israel must sooner or later yield to truth, to the power of truth. [passage omitted]

Publisher: Some Arab and Western papers publish reports and figures on Yemeni oil affairs in terms of exploration, production, and exportation. Your excellency the president, where is the truth in that?

President Salih: Actually, regarding oil affairs, we are about to announce new moderate discoveries with small quantities that do not fully meet our needs, not to mention exportation. We say exploration processes are continuing and we hope larger quantities will be discovered in order to support our national economy and solve all our agricultural and economic problems. We are optimistic about the future. [passage omitted]

Mr Publisher, I have a special piece of news for you: God willing, I will pay an official visit to the United States at the invitation of President George Bush. The Palestine question, the Middle East issue, and bilateral relations will top the agenda to be discussed with President Bush and U.S. officials, so as to explore the true state of affairs

PDRY Ministers Arrive in Sanaa for Unity Talks

JN2411131489 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 24 Nov 89

[Text] Brother Fadl Muhsin 'Abdallah, Political Bureau member and Central Committee secretary; Rashid Muhammad Thabit, Central Committee member and minister of state for union affairs; and 'Abd- al-Wasi' Sallam, minister of justice and religious trusts in the southern part of the homeland arrived in Sanaa this afternoon.

Brother Fadl Muhsin 'Abdallah made a statement to the SABA' news agency in which he said: I am very happy to be in Sanaa and to contribute with my brothers in the northern part of the homeland in continuing dialogue on our most important national issue; in fact it is the primary national issue as far as we are concerned—the issue of unity.

We are very satisfied with what the leaderships in the two parts have achieved and with the spirit of understanding and cooperation between the two leaderships. As I pointed out at the beginning of my statement, the unity issue is not only necessary, it is the issue of a people. It requires us all—north and south—to give it the greatest importance and our greatest efforts to realize the unity of the Yemeni people—a fixed, permament, and solid unity in which all foundations are present and which the people in the north and south can enjoy life, regain their unity, and practice their full freedom.

There are many projects available, two of which are still under discussion. However, the determination and persistence of the two leaderships to reach a solution and an agreement push us on—citizens, strugglers, and officials—to give this issue the appropriate concern. We are quite convinced and satisfied that the dialogue between the leaderships and officials of the two parts will be fruitful and will yield good results.

They were received at the airport by Dr Muhammad Sa'id al-'Attar, deputy prime minister, minister of development, head of the Central Planning Organ, and Standing Committee member; Yahya Husayn al-'Arashi, minister of state for unity affairs and Standing Committee member; Isma'il al-Wazir, minister of state for legal and Consultative Council affairs; and a number of officials from the Unity Affairs Office.

Salih Receives Visiting Officials

JN2411182789 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 24 Nov 89

[Text] Brother Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the republic, commander in chief of the Armed Forces, and secretary general of the General People's Congress, this afternoon received brothers Fadl Muhsin 'Abdallah, Political Bureau member and Central Committee secretary; Rashid Muhammad Thabit, Central Committee member and minister of state for union affairs; and 'Abd-al-Wasi' Sallam, minister of justice and religious trusts in the southern part of the homeland. President Salih discussed with them the current unity work between the two parts in light of new developments and intensive contacts to realize this noble goal.

The meeting was attended by Dr Muhammad Sa'id al-'Attar, deputy prime minister, minister of development, head of the Central Planning Organ, and Standing Committee member; Yahya Husayn al-'Arashi, minister of state for unity affairs and Standing Committee member; and Isma'il al-Wazir, minister of state for legal and Consultative Council affairs and Standing Committee member.

Standing Committee Statement on Unity

JN2411201589 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 24 Nov 89

[Text] Brother Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the republic, commander in chief of the Armed Forces, and secretary general of the General People's Congress, has chaired a meeting of the Standing Committee in a second extraordinary session devoted to discussing Yemeni unity. The participants in the session issued the following press statement:

In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Praise be to God who says: And hold fast, all together, by the rope which God stretches out for you, and be not divided among yourselves. [Koranic verses] While the masses of our people in the two parts of the homeland are experiencing the growing hope of unity and watching the moment of achieving the aspired for Yemeni unity within the framework of the peaceful and democratic dialogue that has created an atmosphere of fraternal understanding and cooperation in the spirit of the determination of the one popular will in the two parts, and within the framework of the popular participation on the road of democracy and Yemeni development and unity, the Standing Committee held its second extraordinary session today, Friday 25 Rabi' Thani 1410 Hegira, corresponding to 24 November 1989, under the chairmanship of brother Col 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the republic, commander in chief of the Armed Forces, and secretary general of the General People's Congress. The work of this session was devoted to discussing Yemeni unity—the fate of our people in the northern and southern parts of the homeland— the inevitable need for its development and progress, and the true guarantee for its ability to safeguard its entity and to play its role on the pan- Arab and international levels.

The committee members discussed developments in unionist action and the positive steps accompanying this action which prove that the years of estrangement and fragmentation are about to end, especially after an atmosphere brimming with the spirit of trust has been created, the objective proposals have been put forward, and the realistic basis for unity has been laid out in light of the growing feelings of national responsibility and the reinforcement of the roots of mutual trust between the leaderships in the two parts through their adherence to the methods of democratic dialogue and peaceful methods.

While reviewing all that has been agreed upon in the unionist agreements, all the practical steps that have been taken on the road to achieving Yemeni unity—foremost of which are the establishment and performance of the Higher Yemeni Council, the establishment of joint companies, and the formation of the constitutional committee entrusted with drafting the constitution of the unity state—and the outcome of the historic Sanaa meeting in terms of additional practical steps—foremost of which are the free movement of citizens between the two parts through the use of identity cards, the promotion of cohesion and contacts among the sons of the one homeland, and the adoption of the necessary bases for integration and national development—the Standing Committee finds that all this constitutes a positive turning point in the course of unionist action. This action will move up to a place of distinction more strongly expressive of this unionist stage that will meld the two revolutionary characters in the two parts into one revolutionary entity, beginning with the unification of defense and foreign policy, in accordance with the unionist agreements and the draft constitution of the unity state, as a step toward the merger, especially since the comprehensiveness of the unionist development in these fields strengthens the bridges of trust and integration, and makes clearer the prospects of full unity.

The Standing Committee sees that expediting these necessary steps constitutes a victory of the will of the Yemeni masses—the possessors of the basic interests of unity—who expressed their genuine objectives and aspirations to reduce time to declare Yemeni unity day through their popular enthusiasm in the two parts of the homeland expressed by various means. This was expressed by the Consultative Council in connection with the need for the two leaderships in the two parts to refer the draft constitution of the unity state to the legislative authorities in the two parts, to complete the required constitutional measures, and to submit the constitution to a popular referendum. This was also expressed by the Consultative Council's invitation to its twin, the Supreme People's Council Presidium, to meet urgently to play their role and to assume their historic responsibilities as representatives of our one Yemeni Arab and Muslim people, in removing all obstacles and overcoming all difficulties to achieve our most exalted national objective of the unity of our one Yemeni homeland. This was also expressed by the popular conferences and the local councils for cooperative development, the popular organizations, and the various state institutions, organs, and committees in response to the will of our people and their struggle throughout history. This was confirmed as well by the national charter that embodies the popular will, especially since the people built their old civilization in search of stability, security, and peace. This was not achieved except under a system of government based on consultation and popular participation. Currently, this system is found in the General People's Congress, which is based on the theory of national action as a means of political action to include all national forces.

The Standing Committee reviewed the unity projects submitted by the northern part, one of which was presented at the beginning of September of this year, and the ensuing development of projects and proposals that took into consideration the training factor applied by the southern part in unity steps.

After reviewing the project of the southern part, the Committee affirmed the importance of turning unity work into a real and distinguished experience overcoming the formal amendments of the previous attempts and triumphing over all remnants of backward imperialism and colonialism. This will enable unity work to exist within a new reality in which security and peace are entrenched and where the issue of social and economic development is given greater opportunity in light of the comprehensive vision of the whole Yemeni homeland. It will also manifest popular participation in democracy, development, and Yemeni unity, which are the goals of the Yemeni revolution.

The Standing Committee expressed its great appreciation for the sincere efforts exerted by the leaders of both parts to realize Yemeni unity. It thanked the legislative authorities in the two parts for their concern in furthering steps to entrench Yemeni unity—that of land and people.

The Standing Committee, while appreciating the political leadership's commitment to and confidence in fraternal dialogue toward realizing Yemeni unity, asserted that the correct and realistic policy to accomplish Yemeni unity is to achieve a developed unity step beyond our former Yemeni experiences and those of the other Arab countries. This is so because cooperation and coordination form a natural and gradual framework toward realizing complete Arab unity.

As for Yemeni unity and the cooperation and coordination steps over more than 18 years, they require a true unity step that does not stop at assigning names and structures, but moves on with firm and definite steps that avoid repeating experiences or widening gaps.

The Committee said it was confident that the leaders of the two parts are capable of shouldering their historic responsibilities of responding to the desires of the popular will yearning for complete unity in implementation of the goals and principles of the Yemeni revolution, especially since circumstances have created a new reality suitable for establishing Yemeni unity as a prelude to complete Arab unity. At the same time, the committee took into account the fact that a firm belief and a continuing struggle for the homeland to realize the unity of Yemen are the solid bases for belief in the Arab nation. They are also the right introduction to realize a more comprehensive unity when Arab unity is achieved under circumstances in which Arab groupings are set up to leave no room for division and partition.

Since this session was being held at a sensitive time, when fraternal Lebanon saw the assassination of Lebanese President Rene Mu'awwad, the symbol of Lebanon's unity and Arab identity, who was the victim of murder and treachery by the enemies of the security, stability, and unity of Lebanon, the Standing Committee condemned this heinous crime and urged the fraternal Lebanese people to be patient, cling to national unity, continue to adhere to the Arab option, and implement political reforms as a guarantee of the peace, stability, security, and unity of Lebanon under constitutional legitimacy.

The Standing Committee very respectfully hailed the escalating, heroic, and valiant intifadah of the Arab people in the occupied territories as it goes into its 3d year in a few days' time. Thus, with strong determination and will, it brings great victories for the right of the Palestinian Arab people to independence, self-determination, and the establishment of an independent state on their national soil under the leadership of the PLO, their sole legitimate representative.

Shamir Discusses East Bloc Ties, Immigration

TA2811202689 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 28 Nov 89

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir says there is no doubt in his mind that all the East Bloc countries will soon renew diplomatic relations with Israel. He believes this will change the automatic majority against Israel at the United Nations. Regarding expectations of massive waves of immigration, Yitzhaq Shamir said there is no doubt that hundreds of thousands of immigrants will come to Israel. Approximately 1 million will seek to leave the Soviet Union, and many of them will want to head to Israel. The prime minister addressed newspaper editors at the annual meeting of the Press Editors Association on 29 November [as heard], the day on which the United Nations passed its resolution on the establishment of the State of Israel. Our correspondent Hayim Plattner brings excerpts from Yitzhaq Shamir's address:

[Begin recording] Who could ever have imagined that such fundamental changes would take place in the communist countries without bloodshed, violence, or civil war? We would like some of that spirit to drift to the Middle East, too, but there are as of yet no indications whatsoever that this is indeed happening. Let me add that we would also like to see a greater show of democracy here. Despite statements by so-called experts, democracy and the chances for peace are really closely linked. It is far easier to make peace with democratic countries that depend on their public's opinions. This is far easier to achieve than with such totalitarian or authoritatian countries as exist in our vicinity.

There is no doubt that we are about to receive a large wave of immigration, although we are still only talking about it, and everyone makes it a point to emphasize that we are ill prepared to absorb them properly. One would have thought there was ever a time when we were well prepared to absorb waves of immigration!

There is no question that hundreds of thousands will arrive. This is evidenced by the statistics. Just this month, the overall number of Soviet immigrants alone reached 2,000. Another 1,000 could have come as well, had there been a way to fly directly from the Soviet Union. But this will become possible very soon, and we are hoping that this will be on routes in which we are interested. Then, thousands will come.

According to simple mathematical calculations, the number of Jews who will want to leave the Soviet Union will soon reach 1 million, of which a large number will want to come to Israel. [end recording]

Shamir Comes Under 'Attack' From Levi, Sharon

TA2911103389 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 29 Nov 89 pp 1, 10

[Report by political correspondent Dan Petreanu]

[Excerpt] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir found himself under renewed attack from his Likud ministerial opponents at the party's Knesset faction meeting yesterday, where he presented his colleagues with an upbeat account of his recent trip to the U.S. and Europe.

Shamir argued that the trip had demonstrated how "progress can be made even in apparently adverse situations," and asserted that the position of Israel—and the Likud—among U.S. Jews has never been stronger.

The premier insisted that Israel's "real problems derive from divisions within." Along with other speakers yesterday, he singled out THE JERUSALEM POST for undermining Israel's international reputation.

The premier, who sat impassively through most of the debate that followed his remarks, grew visibly impatient when ministers David Levi and Ari'el Sharon—sitting on either side of him—lashed out against the government's diplomatic initiative. The two argued that implementation of the initiative would "surely" lead to the establishment of a Palestinian state in the territories.

"What has this initiative accomplished?" demanded Levi. "Has it strengthened our relationship with the U.S.? The opposite would appear to be the case. It was also supposed to create an alternative Palestinian leadership to the PLO. Yet now we're all waiting to hear the answer of the PLO [to the Baker plan]."

The Likud's "electoral power" is now under threat, Levi maintained, "and now, because of this plan, we are facing a situation in which, if we stick to our agreements with the Labour Party, they will try to bring down the government." Levi claimed that he and his allies—Sharon and the absent Yitzhaq Moda'i—"are the only ones upholding the Likud's true principles."

Sharon argued that Shamir's strategy of gradual progress in the negotiating process, without initially addressing the nature of the final settlement, "will lead us exactly where we don't want to go." Clearly referring to Shamir, he went on: "Maybe there were those who thought that the idea of elections might be useful as a ploy... But it will lead to a Palestinian state within a very short period of time."

Shamir responded by saying that "the disagreements among us should be resolved democratically, after internal discussion." This comment was interpreted by many MKs [Knesset members] as an allusion to a decisive Likud Central Committee meeting, which will probably be held in the coming month.

In his remarks earlier, Shamir expressed relative satisfaction with his trip, asserting that he "saw nothing difficult in the reportedly difficult questions" posed by President Bush about settlement in the territories, other Israeli activities there and Israeli-South African relations.

He said that the U.S. Administration had delayed detailed discussion of the proposed elections in the territories because Egypt had not yet submitted its response—"and I saw no need to press for such a discussion."

The Americans promised that the changes in Europe "will not affect their strategic cooperation with Israel," said Shamir. [passage omitted]

Shamir Ignoring East European 'Winds of Change'

TA2211171089 Jerusalem AL-NAHAR in Arabic
21 Nov 89 pp 1, 11

[Editorial: "Shamir... and After Him the Deluge?"]

[Text] To the same extent that we differ with Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir, we admit our "admiration" for his frankness, which was manifested very clearly on the U.S. television program "Face the Nation." The interview was marked by frankness regarding both Israeli practices in the occupied territories and the establishment of new settlements in them, as well as regarding military relations between Israel and South Africa.

We shall focus here on Shamir's most important answer concerning the differences between Israel and the United States over U.S. support for "some form" of exchanging land for peace in view of the fact that the official Israeli viewpoint holds that, in order to find a solution, the occupied territories should be considered as part of Israel's "inheritance." We were not surprised by this "logic" of Shamir because the basic principles of Israeli policy are based on not withdrawing from the occupied territories, but we were surprised by the timing of these Shamirian statements, which were made after Shamir's meetings with President George Bush and Secretary of State James Baker. The implicit meaning of these statements is that the U.S. Administration was not able to change or even soften Shamir's position and the Israeli strategy. The question is: Do Shamir's stances pose a challenge to the U.S. Administration?

As to Shamir's confirmation that his government does not have any intention of withdrawing from the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, this is the most sincere and clearest position announced by Israel yet. Hence, it is very naive to believe that the peace initiatives, whichever they may be, will succeed or will effect any change in the Israeli position.

The stalled peace process totally conforms with Shamir's aims and maneuvers. As he stated in his television interview: "There is nothing that calls for speeding up the peace process," and in time all problems will be resolved.

Shamir tried to convince viewers that the Palestinian problem is not the core of the conflict but that the dispute is between Israel and the Arab states, and that these countries refuse to enter into negotiations to reach peace agreements!

Thus, Shamir refuses to recognize the Palestinian problem and ignores the existence of the Palestinian people. This stance is not strange and is consistent with that of former Israeli Prime Minister Golda Me'ir in the early seventies, when she refused to recognize the existence of the Palestinian people. But what we hold against Shamir is that Me'ir changed her view and later recognized the Palestinian people and their problem. Not only this but also circumstances have changed, and we are on the threshold of the nineties of this century. One of the most significant changes that have occurred during this period is that the Palestinians recognized Israel, renounced terrorism, and accepted Security Council Resolution 242. These conditions made the Palestinian problem jump from the lower ranks to the top of the priorities of regional conflicts awaiting a solution. This problem also has drawn the attention of the great powers to the need of resolving the Palestinian problem as an indispensable basic condition for establishing peace in the entire Middle East region.

Moreover, Shamir ignores the fact that the winds of change and the demand for freedoms that have blown over Eastern Europe will inevitably blow over the Middle East region, and that what has been taking place in the occupied territories for two years does not deviate from the international framework demanding freedom and independence.

'New Language' in Shamir's Comments on PLO

TA2811160889 Jerusalem AL-SHA'B in Arabic
28 Nov 89 pp 1, 11

[Editorial: "Shamir... and the Devil!"]

[Text] In remarks to the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee yesterday, Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir expressed his readiness to talk with the "devil" for the sake of peace. He stressed, however, that he will not talk with the PLO, not because it is a terrorist organization—as he was claiming and saying even before returning from his European trip a few days ago—but because the organization is trying to establish an independent Palestinian state, which Shamir sees as an ominous warning to Israel and a threat to its foundation.

We have no intention here of taking Shamir to task for his desire to talk with the "devil." This is his own concern and that of his government. This is an internal matter relating to the opinions shaping the thought and mind of this man. It is better and more appropriate though, both for Shamir and for peace, for him to talk with the PLO after he himself confessed yesterday that it is no longer a terrorist organization. Shamir acknowledged this fact after the Europeans confronted him with it when he tried to sell them pawed-over merchandise accusing the PLO of terrorism. To the acknowledgment of friend and foe, the PLO is far removed from terrorism.

No one can deny that Shamir's remarks about the PLO before the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee yesterday contain new language. This language reflects the pressures applied on him during his visit to France and Italy after he failed to convince their leaders, with unfounded excuses and pretexts that he carried in his briefcase, of the reasons for not talking with the PLO, and after the French and the Italians affirmed to him that the PLO has contributed all it can to advance the peace process.

U.S. Position on PLO's Status at UN Welcomed

TA2911055389 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 29 Nov 89

[Text] The Foreign Ministry in Jerusalem has welcomed the U.S. objections to elevating PLO's status at the UN General Assembly. The statement said Israel appreciates and welcomes the American stand, which is a firm and long-standing one at the United Nations.

Jerusalem Studies Talk of German Reunification

TA2811162489 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1500 GMT 28 Nov 89

[Report by political correspondent Natan Gutman]

[Text] Ever since East Europe began undergoing political change, Jerusalem has consistently avoided comment as much as possible. The few official remarks on the issue made during the recent month indicate that Israel has a problem with the possibility that East Germany may unite with West Germany. This is liable to have grave ramifications, said Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir when asked about the reunification possibility some 2 and ½ weeks ago.

In unofficial talks, political elements expressed mixed feelings toward Chancellor Kohl's reunification proposal. Israel's situation on this question is delicate. One one hand, it—like the other Western countries—is expected to welcome any move toward the democratization of East Europe. Since the Holocaust, however, Israel has borne a heavy load of negative sentiment toward the Germans. East Germany took no part in the West German reparations program in which Holocaust victims were compensated. In the East Germans' view, they also are victims of the Nazis and not responsible for the deeds of the Nazis. Attempts by U.S. Jews to mediate on this issue failed as well.

To sum up: Although no official reaction to the concept of German reunification has been issued, Jerusalem is far from enthusiastic about such a possibility.

USSR's Krasova Says Ties 'Would Be Beneficial'

TA2811122689 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1100 GMT 28 Nov 89

[Text] The Soviet Union no longer conditions the restoration of diplomatic ties with Israel on its agreement to participate in an international conference or even to international auspices for the peace process. These are remarks made by Dr Tat'yana Krasova, the head of the Israeli division at the Oriental Studies Institute of the Soviet Academy of Science in Moscow.

According to her, the restoration of ties would be beneficial and could take place before the opening of peace talks, while they are in progress, or even after them, as long as negotiations are held with the participation of all the parties involved.

Dr Krasova is visiting Israel as a guest of the World Zionist Organization and of the Giv'at Haviva Seminar.

She believes that although the invitation extended to Shim'on Peres to visit Moscow was unofficial, it is highly probable that he will be scheduled to meet with senior political personalities. According to her, Peres is well-known and well-liked in the Soviet Union and is considered a man who promotes peace through territorial compromise.

Tourism Minister Warns Against Ties With Poland

TA2811182689 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1800 GMT 28 Nov 89

[Text] Minister Gid'on Pat said today that Israel must seriously assess the resumption of political relations with Poland. Our political correspondent Arye Golan reports that in a lecture in Bat-Yam, the tourism minister said that the Jewish people and Israel have had an ongoing account with the Polish people, and that Poland has a long-standing anti-Semitic tradition. It was not by chance that Nazi Germany selected Poland as the European Jews' valley of death.

Minister Pat added that the Polish nation had collaborated with the Nazis, and neither the nation nor its leaders have ever expressed repentance for what they did to us. Therefore, Israel must not head the list of countries rushing to assist the rebuilding of the Polish economy.

He further said that he sees a national insult in the fact that Vice Prime Minister Shim'on Peres, currently visiting Poland, should urge that country's—in Minister Pat's words—bankrupt leaders to announce that they would consent to resume relations with Israel within 3 months.

'Arafat Effigy Near U.S. Consulate Permitted

TA2811121089 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1100 GMT 28 Nov 89

[Excerpt] Today the High Court of Justice ordered the Jerusalem Municipality to return the six U.S. flags confiscated from the Terror Victims Organization and permit the organization to hoist the flags on a large effigy in front of the U.S. Consulate in Jerusalem. Our correspondent Mikha'el Birenhack reports from the courthouse:

Under pressure from the justices during this morning's court session, the Jerusalem Municipality representatives consented to permit the Terror Victims Organization to place an 'Arafat effigy opposite the U.S. Consulate until midnight tomorrow. Tomorrow, it will be remembered, is 29 November [anniversary of the UN resolution on the partition of Palestine]. The parties agreed that if the organization fails to remove the effigy by midnight, the municipality will do so at the organization's expense.

The municipality representative consulted Teddy Kollek and the Foreign Ministry with regard to the hoisting of U.S. flags and advised the court that the municipality persists in its objection to this. By the way, the U.S. consul was the one who had lodged a complaint with the municipality regarding the effigy placed near the consulate. [passage omitted]

Crossing Attempts Aborted on Jordanian Border

TA2911103689 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew
29 Nov 89 p 2

[Report by military affairs correspondent Dan Sagir]

[Excerpt] In the wake of the three penetration attempts into Israel from the Jordanian border, all of which have occurred within recent months, the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] has upgraded the security measures on this usually calm border. The Jordanians, too, have taken action to prevent infiltration and terrorist attacks from their territory.

Thanks to the increased alert, seven recent penetration and exit attempts were aborted along the Jordanian border. The most recent case was last Saturday, when a Gaza youth tried to cross the border into Jordan north of Moshav Argaman in the Jordan Rift Valley. He was apprehended by an IDF patrol.

In another instance, two wanted youths from Qalqilyah attempted to cross the border into Jordan. One of them was apprehended by the IDf, while the other managed to cross the border.

In recent months, the Jordanian Army has increased the number of troops guarding the border with Israel, mainly in the region of the Jordan Rift Valley and Bet She'an Valley. The Jordanians have prepared additional patrol roads, cleared orchards abutting on the border fence, and built additional observation points in sensitive areas. A military source serving in the area has said that, in his opinion, the Jordanians have done their best to prevent terrorist attacks and maintain a quiet border line.

The participation rate of Jordan Rift Valley farmers in the intifadah is quite low. [passage omitted]

No Local Arab Strike on Intifadah Anniversary

TA2811114289 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew
28 Nov 89 p 2

[Report by Nazareth-based correspondent Muhammad Khalilah]

[Text] The Supreme Arab Follow-Up Committee—comprised of heads of local councils, public figures, Histadrut executive members, and Knesset members [MK's]—has rejected the proposal submitted by MK Muhammad Mi'ari of the Progressive List for Peace and Shaykh 'Abdallah Nimr Darwish of the Islamic Movement to mark the second anniversary of the intifadah on 9 December with a general strike by the entire Israeli Arab population.

The follow-up committee convened in Shefar'am yesterday for over 2 hours to discuss the intifadah and ways to mark its second anniversary. It resolved to make do with a call to the Israeli Arab community to donate 1 day's wages to the intifadah to buy food and medicines for the residents of the territories.

The committee also decided to call on all Muslim, Christian, and Druze clerics to hold prayer services in their temples in memory of the "martyrs" of the intifadah. At noon, muezzins will issue calls to prayers from the minarets and church bells will ring in a token of respect and in solidarity with the intifadah, its detainees, and its martyrs.

At exactly 1200 the Arab community will be asked to observe 2 minutes of silence in memory of the "martyrs." The committee further decided to hold two central processions and mass rallies on 9 December: one in Nazareth for the inhabitants of the Galilee, and another in Kafr Qasim for residents of the Triangle and central Israel.

It was further resolved to have Arab public figures attend the demonstrations Peace Now is organizing in Jerusalem, Haifa, and Tel Aviv.

Unlike MK Mi'ari, who objected to the resolutions, all the speakers in the meeting—including Shaykh Darwish, who said the Islamic Movement would abide by them—emphasized that the Arab community was at the moment ill-prepared to stage a general strike.

They said they were concerned that compliance with the call to strike would not be very high. In addition, they stressed that the leaders of the Arab community do not want to exacerbate their relations with the Jewish sector.

Figures on Deaths of Small Children Released

TA2911123989 Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew
29 Nov 89 p 6

[Report by Yosi Werther]

[Text] Seven small children up to the age of six were killed by security forces' gunfire in the territories since the beginning of the intifadah until several days ago: four in the Gaza Strip and three in the West Bank. About 30 small children died shortly after exposure to tear gas. These data were revealed yesterday by Knesset Member Hagay Marom (Alignment), who demanded that Mikha'el Bar-Zohar (Alignment), Knesset Education and Culture Committee chairman, initiate an immediate debate on the situation.

According to figures supplied by Marom, which had been gathered at his request by members of Betzelem, the Israeli center for human rights in the territories, the seven dead small children included three 3 year olds, one 4-year-old girl, two 5 year olds, and one child aged 6. In the same period, 27 children between the ages of 6 and 12 were killed in the territories.

Roni Milo, acting labor and welfare minister, yesterday announced in the Knesset that he will take action on behalf of Israel toward adding its signature to the UN International Human Rights Charter. Because of the Foreign Ministry's apprehension that joining the charter would constitute a contradiction with events in the territories, Israel has so far refrained from signing the charter.

Statistics on Palestinian Fatalities Reported

TA2911130489 Tel Aviv HA'OLAM HAZE in Hebrew 29 Nov 89 p 5

[Report by Orit Zrubavel]

[Text] On Monday, 27 November, the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] spokesman reported 528 Palestinian fatalities in the occupied territories. The figure includes only those killed by soldiers' gunfire.

According to HA'OLAM HAZE's count, the number of Palestinian fatalities is 665.

Palestinian sources, on the other hand, report 708 fatalities [figure as published], according to the following breakdown:

—588 fatalities from IDF soldiers' and settlers' gunfire;
—82 fatalities from asphyxiation;
—54 fatalities from beatings and electrocution;
—84 fatalities from other causes.

The sources said 12 Palestinians were shot by IDF soldiers in the West Bank in November, while in the Gaza Strip there were no fatalities from gunfire that month. That was the lowest monthly figure reported up until now by these sources.

Strikes, Curfews, Violence in Territories

Strike Staged in Gaza Strip

TA2311111689 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 23 Nov 89 p 2

[Report by Eytan Rabin and Yizhar Be'er]

[Excerpts] A general strike was staged in the Gaza Strip yesterday. Palestinian sources report that the the strike, called for by HAMAS [Islamic Resistance Movement], was fully observed. The sources added that eight residents were wounded in clashes with the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] yesterday. Five of the wounded are from the al-Shati' refugee camp; the other three are from the Shabura neighborhood in Rafah. Also, according to the sources, clashes took place in the Jabalyah, Dayr al-Balah, and al-Nusayrat refugee camps yesterday. The curfew imposed on three Gaza neighborhoods—Sabra, Zaytun, and al-Shaykh 'Ajlin—remained in effect; searches were conducted there.

Military sources reported that the curfews on these locations will be maintained until further notice. A Southern Command spokesman yesterday reported that the Gaza Strip was quiet and that only sporadic incidents took place, in which two locals were wounded and taken to al-Shifa' Hospital in Gaza.

Military sources believe that the three members of the squad that killed the two IDF reservists are still hiding inside the Strip, and that they might strike again.

Palestinian sources reported that the Netherlands ambassador toured the Gaza Strip yesterday. He met with local leaders with whom he discussed Baker's five-point plan and daily life in the intifadah. [passage omitted]

A fully observed general strike was staged in the West Bank yesterday following orders issued by HAMAS.

In incidents in the West Bank, five locals were wounded yesterday. A resident of Dayr Sharaf near Nabulus was wounded when he attempted to avoid an IDF roadblock. Two youths were wounded in Janin. They were both hospitalized in al-Ittihad Hospital in Nabulus. Palestinian sources also maintained that a 5-year-old boy from the al-Fari'ah refugee camp who was wounded by soldiers' gunfire was brought to the same hospital yesterday. Military sources noted that they know of only one man who was wounded yesterday in the Nabulus area, and that he is not a child.

Palestinian residents in Nabulus reported that Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin and his entourage visited the city yesterday. [passage omitted] IDF sources confirmed that the defense minister visited Nabulus yesterday.

[Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew on 23 November in a page 5 ITIM report adds: "The Gaza military court yesterday handed down a 32-month prison sentence and a 3-year suspended sentence on a 21-year-old convicted as a member of a Gaza strike committee. Two other members of that committee of the al-Nusayrat refugee camp, aged 20 and 21, were each given a 2-year prison sentence."]

Women, Youths March in Nabulus

TA2511153189 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1500 GMT 25 Nov 89

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] Two youths were wounded in Nabulus today during clashes with soldiers. One of them was injured in the eye by a plastic bullet; he was transferred to al-Maqasid Hospital in East Jerusalem.

About 200 women staged a procession in Nabulus today to mark the 1st anniversary of the Algiers declaration of a Palestinian state. They dispersed upon the arrival of an IDF force on the scene.

In the Nabulus casbah, youths wearing red keffiyehs staged a procession in solidarity with the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine terrorist organization.

72 Detained in Tulkarm

TA2611080589 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 26 Nov 89 pp 1, 8

[Report by Joel Greenberg and Mikhal Sela']

[Excerpt] IDF [Israel Defense Forces] troops launched a large-scale sweep in the Tulkarm area yesterday and arrested 72 persons, most of them youths wanted by the security forces.

Palestinians reported that at 4:30 a.m., curfews were clamped on the Tulkarm and Nur al-Shams refugee camps, on Dhannabah and on the Tulkarm industrial zone.

Large numbers of troops surrounded the Tulkarm camp, concentrating local men in one location, and began house-to-house searches for wanted youths. Military sources said 64 were arrested, some of whom were disguised as women or hiding in underground shelters. Another eight residents who tried to flee were also detained.

Among those held was former administrative detainee 'Adnan Damiri, a journalist and former president of the student council at al-Najah University in Nabulus.

Soldiers found and confiscated axes, knives, and sharpened metal poles, and searched for arms caches, though none were found.

The IDF said the searches were proceeding without incident and with no casualties, but residents reported protests in defiance of the curfew.

Tulkarm was declared a closed military zone, and no traffic was allowed in or out of the town, residents said. Streets were empty as scores of stores remained shut because their owners could not arrive from their homes in neighboring villages. Newspapers did not reach the city.

In clashes with troops in Nabulus, three persons were wounded, including a 17-year-old shot in the eye and reported in serious condition. Troops fired tear-gas to break up a procession by about 200 women who marched in the casbah, carrying Palestinian flags and posters marking the PLO's declaration of an independent state, residents said.

In clashes in the Gaza Strip over the weekend, 24 Palestinians were shot and wounded, according to hospital records. Military sources confirmed two casualties. Clashes were reported in Gaza, Jabalyah, al-Shati', Khan Yunus, Dayr al-Balah, and Rafah, where troops wounded and arrested a masked youth.

Also in Rafah, masked assailants beat and stabbed 'Ali Mustafa Ahmad, 38, seriously wounding him, Gaza police said.

Dozens of fresh arrests were reported during searches for the assailants who ambused an IDF jeep two weeks ago and killed two soldiers. [passage omitted]

IDF Lifts Camp Curfews

TA2611092889 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0830 GMT 26 Nov 89

[Excerpts] This morning the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] lifted the curfews imposed on the Tulkarm and Nur al-Shams refugee camps and the township of Dhannabah. [passage omitted]

Today curfews remain in force only on the al-Duhayshah refugee camp and the township of al-Khidr, both in the Bethlehem area.

[Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew at 0700 GMT on 26 November also reports: "This morning the IDF lifted the curfew imposed more than 2 weeks ago on the al-Shaykh 'Ajlin neighborhood in Gaza."]

Uprising-Linked Death Reported

TA2811093889

[Editorial Report] Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English on 28 November carries a report on page 12 by Mikhal Sela' and Joel Greenberg on yesterday's incidents in the territories. According to the report, "the first intifada-related death in the Gaza Strip over the past month occurred yesterday when a man died of wounds sustained 7 months ago." Bassam al-Sha'ir, 21, from Rafah, was shot and wounded on April 23, "during a clash in his neighborhood. He was treated in Khan Yunus before his family had him transferred to a hospital in Cairo, where he died."

"Two Palestinian children were wounded in clashes in the Strip yesterday, according to Palestinian sources. Military sources reported that the area was relatively calm and one Palestinian was wounded in clashes with troops."

In the West Bank, "a Palestinian who was hacked and beaten by masked youths in Nabulus last week died of his wounds yesterday." Elsewhere in the West Bank, "an Israeli motorist was wounded in the eye by slivers of glass when his car was stoned in Halhul," while "a resident of the 'Ezyon Bloc was attacked near a local mosque. He was extricated by an army patrol and evacuated to Hadassah Hospital in 'En Kerem.

"Palestinians reported that the village of Bayt Liqya, in the Ramallah area, was declared a closed military zone after residents there responded to a tax-raid last week by burning tax forms and returning their ID cards to the local mukhtar."

Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew on 28 November on page 6 in a report by Mikhal Qedem and Oren Kohen adds that "security forces ordered an agricultural school in the village of Bayt Hanun" in the Gaza Strip closed yesterday "in the wake of extensive riots which took place there over the past few weeks. The number of Gaza Strip schools that are closed currently stands at seven."

"A new UNRWA [UN Works and Relief Agency] clinic was inaugurated in the Daraj neighborhood of Gaza yesterday. It was constructed at the cost of some $400,000 financed by the Finnish Government. The Finnish ambassador attended the inauguration."

The Gaza military court yesterday handed down prison terms ranging from 2 and ½ to 9 years and "heavily fined four local residents, two of whom are HAMAS [Islamic Resistance Movement] activists. One of those convicted was 'Ala' al-Kurd, 17, from Dayr al-Balah, who threw a stone that wounded an Israeli soldier. He was sentenced to 2 and ½ years in prison and was given an equivalent suspended sentence and fined 10,000 shekels."

"Yesterday the army imposed curfews on the villages of Mashah, 'Asirah al-Shamaliyah, Khirbat al-Misbah, and La'ban, and detained 26 people during a tax raid."

Jerusalem Domestic Service in English at 0500 GMT on 28 November adds that yesterday "in Rafah, an Arab resident was injured in a clash with soldiers. Gaza sources say there were several others injured as well. Military sources say the violence began after Palestinian activists scrawled uprising slogans on the walls of buildings."

West Bank Strike Canceled

TA2811184389 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 28 Nov 89

[Text] A general strike was observed in the Gaza Strip today to mark tomorrow's anniversary of the United Nations' 1947 partition plan for Palestine. A similar strike planned for Judaea and Samaria was called off because of the high school matriculation examinations.

Curfews Reported in Territories

TA2811204389 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 28 Nov 89

[Excerpt] A general strike was observed today in the Gaza Strip and parts of Judaea and Samaria in response to a Fatah instruction to mark 29 November tomorrow. Military sources reported that three locals were hurt in Gaza Strip disturbances. The Gaza Strip was free of curfews today. [Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew at 2000 GMT on 28 November reports that "a firebomb was hurled at a Border Police patrol in the al-Burayj refugee camp, and a gas grenade was thrown at an Army patrol in Rafah, but no one was hurt."]

Following disturbances and firebomb incidents in Judaea and Samaria, a curfew was imposed on the al-Duhayshah refugee camp, on the al-Khidr area, and on the villages of Mashah and Biddiya on the trans-Samaria highway. [passage omitted] [Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew at 2000 GMT on 28 November adds that "in Nabulus two Molotov cocktails were thrown at an army van, but no one was hurt. The Army has begun searches." The report adds that "the defense minister toured Tulkarm and Janin today to review the army's preparedness for tomorrow, 29 November."]

General Strike in Territories

TA2911074989 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0700 GMT 29 Nov 89

[Text] There is a general strike today in Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip to protest the UN resolution to partition the Land of Israel 42 years ago. The strike is in force in most places with some commerce in several locations.

The Judaea and Samaria Civil Administration told the UN Relief and Works Agency [UNRWA] that it would not permit them to resume studies contrary to instructions. Our correspondent Arye Gus reports that UNRWA senior officials wrote the Civil Administration a letter in which they said they would resume studies on 11 December, ignoring the administration's orders not to restart studies until mid-January.

Parliament Elects Deputy Speakers 27 Nov

JN2711174689 Amman Domestic Service in English 1700 GMT 27 Nov 89

[Text] The Upper House of Parliament held its first session at noon today under the chairmanship of Mr Ahmad al-Lawzi. During the session, which was attended by the Prime Minister al-Sharif Zayd Bin-Shakir and cabinet members, the Senate elected two deputy speakers. It chose Mr Bahjat al-Talhuni as first deputy speaker and Mr Ahmad 'Ubaydat as second deputy speaker. The Senate also named a committee to prepare a reply to his majesty the king's speech from the throne.

The Lower House of Parliament this afternoon elected Mr Sulayman 'Arar as its speaker. Mr 'Arar scored 44 votes against his rival Mr Yusuf al-Mubayyidin, who only secured 36 votes. The Lower House of Parliament also elected Dr 'Ali al-Faqir and Mr Ziyad Abu-Mahfuz as deputy speakers.

Column Views U.S. 'Extortionist Mentality' on UN

JN2911095489 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 29 Nov 89 p 20

["Every Day" column by Tariq Masariwah: "Washington's Threats to the United Nations"]

[Text] Only the Americans threaten the world with their absence from it. However, many believe the world would be more beautiful without the Americans.

Washington threatens to stop its allocation of UN funds if the General Assembly approves a change of status of the Palestinian observer from that of PLO observer to Palestinian state observer. Such a threat might intimidate the army of employees at the UN, but it does not intimidate the international majority. There is no objection to the Unites States' withdrawal from this international organization, because its withdrawal from UNESCO and stopping the payment of its allocation—of course along with Britain—proved UNESCO could become better as a result.

The time has passed when the United States could decide to keep a quarter of the inhabitants of the world out of the UN or to impose the dwarf of Formosa on the Chinese giant's seat. With Afro-Asian and South American liberation, the picture has changed. The United States is no longer in a position to give or take away; it uses its influence now in two ways: First, by exploiting regional conflicts in the world, adding fuel to their fire, and then giving way to the world's desire to extinguish these conflicts through UN forces. Of course, the United States facilitates this process by "donating" the largest share of the cost of these forces. The second way is by exploiting the needs of impoverished third world countries by expanding the programs and machinery of the UN and "donating" the largest share of their cost.

The U.S. extortionist mentality in dealing with the UN is no longer convincing to anyone. So far, the United States has failed to pay $500 million to this international organization. It is obvious the UN and thirld world countries have not benefited from U.S. funds that flowed, then stopped. Washington's hostility toward everything Palestinian—whether it is directed against the PLO observer, Palestine's observer, or the observer of the State of Palestine—is a hostility Washington cannot use to threaten the UN, beacuse it is a longstanding, existing hostility. The Americans' refusal to pay their share to this international organization will not change anything, because these threats are proof of the United States' contempt for the UN, what it represents, and for the international majority. The United States no longer controls the UN; therefore, the UN's continuation and future are of no concern to the United States.

The United States' abandonment of UNESCO—along with its follower Britain—and the subsequent continuation of the activity of this organization renders the new U.S. threat ineffective. Perhaps it is in the interest of this organization, and of the world, if the United States' were to leave this organization forever. The experience of moving the General Assembly to Geneva to hear President 'Arafat's speech, after the United States denied him a visa to travel to New York, is significant. There is nothing to prevent the nonaligned states from convening the assembly in Geneva instead of New York in 1990—but this time, the threat should be directed by the UN.

Observers View Election's Regional Influence

JN2711133789 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 27 Nov 89 pp 1, 3

[Front page article by JORDAN TIMES staff writer Ghadir Tahir entitled: "The Jordanian Experiment—a Catalyst Toward Democratization in the Region"]

[Text] Amman—The winds of change which have reawakened Jordan's slumbering parliamentary life after 22 years and heralded the Kingdom's first sure-footed steps into democracy may have deep implications for other countries in the region which have not yet taken the road to popular participation in charting their course.

Many observers believe that the ramifications of Jordan's parliamentary elections will not be internally contained but will have spillover effects in neighbouring countries, albeit gradually.

"The success of Jordan's experiment will have an influence on many of the countries bordering Jordan," said Sa'd-al-Din Ibrahim, secretary-general of the Amman-based Arab Thought Forum (ATF).

"Anything that happens in an Arab country has a chain effect in the region; it is the power of example, the power of demonstration," Ibrahim, a sociology professor at the American University of Cairo (AUC), told the JORDAN TIMES.

Analyst Jawad al-Anani agrees that Jordan's experiment, which allowed candidates of all political persuasions to contest the polls with no constraints whatsoever despite the fact that political parties have been banned since 1957, will set an example in the region. He asserts that it will demonstrate that "democratisation is not harzardous to regimes." According to al-Anani, the fact that the government did not field a party in the elections and the openness and fairness demonstrated in the polling process contribute to this emphasis.

Assad 'Abd-al-Rahman, director-general of the Shuman Foundation, believes that "some countries in the region would not exactly be very happy about the experiment in Jordan because they are already under pressure to democratise from outside the region."

An Arab diplomat, who preferred anonymity, argued that the freedom that Jordan extended to known political activists to run the elections with unofficial blocs "has added to nervousness in neighbouring countries" sparked by strong showing in the polls by the Muslim Brotherhood and other "Islamists."

"Some of these countries do not even allow any organised activity by the Brotherhood," the diplomat noted. The strong showing of the Islamists could encourage similar parties in other countries, which would threaten the regimes that have imposed strict curbs on them, he pointed out.

Ibrahim apparently supports this assessment. "Jordan's leaders and the Muslim Brotherhood have had a civilised relationship over the past 30-35 years," He said. "This is not the case with other regimes in the region."

Another analyst asserts that the apprehension of some countries is evidenced by the silence from leaders sceptical of democracy.

Many analysts and diplomats agree that the "fairness and honesty" of the election could very well put pressure on countries hesitant to initiate modest democratic reforms, but they also assert the change will come gradually.

"I expect the change to come gradually and it will probably take place reluctantly—one step forward, two steps backward..." Ibrahim said.

Political science Professor Kamil Abu-Jaber shares the opinion. "If change does come then it will be very slow," he said.

Al-'Anani expects countries neighbouring Jordan as well as the Gulf Arab states to "wait and see what happens in Jordan before taking any step."

"Democracy is contagious but the change must come from within and Jordan's election is a catalyst," said the Arab diplomat. "Arab countries which are reluctant to lessen their grip on power and allow for participation are apprehensive to say the least," he added.

Al-Rahman thinks the speed of reform in these countries will depend on the political behaviour of their indigenous population.

One of the most positive aspects of the Jordanian experiment is the challenge it poses to Israel's claim as the "only living democracy in West Asia," according analyst Musa al-Kilani, a former Jordanian ambassador.

"Israel is no longer able to maintain its claim as the exclusive oasis for democracy in the region," al-Kilani said. "Now Jordan is projecting a new image of sober democracy not tarnished by ruthless occupation and oppressive practices. The Kingdom's image reflects idealistically to compare with Israel's image as an occupation force claiming to be democratic."

However, he added, "in Jordan the step has to culminate—permission for political parties to operate and for a freer press." Global trend [subhead]

Most analysts agree that it is not only the givens in the Arab World and Jordan that are or will be influential in the democratisation process in Arab countries. They view pluralism in Jordan and other Arab countries as part of an overall trend in the world.

The trend towards pluralism and democracy in Eastern Europe and the Third World has also been accelerated because there is no longer a "good example of one-party rule projected to the Third World," according to Ibrahim. "There is a feeling that it is not suitable to rule people through one elite or one party no matter how good the party is," he said.

Ibrahim bases his assessment on his observations on the events that sweeped Algeria in 1988 after being under one-party rule since independence. Prompted by widespread riots sparked by economic difficulties, which gave way to political demands, Algerian President Chadli Bendjedid introduced reforms to end 27 years of one-party politics. A new constitution was adopted in February 1988 guaranteeing free multi-party elections and freedom of speech and assembly. At least seven opposition political parties, ranging from communists to Islamists, were legalised in Algeria since September, vying for power with Bendjedid's National Liberation Front (FLN).

In this slow approach to democracy scenario, Ibrahim also poses two sub-scenarios. One is where the ruler introduces reforms prior to a popular upheaval. The second scenario is where reforms are initiated as a result of popular upheaval such as Algeria. But Ibrahim maintains that whatever scenario occurs in these countries it will still be slow.

Ibrahim sums up his assessment of what is in store for the future of leaders in the Arab World, "If the ruler is smart, then he should take the initiative. If he is half-smart, when signs are there, he would accommodate them like Chadli Bendjedid. If he is dumb, he will be overtaken by events 'Ala' Numayri (Ja'far Numayri of Sudan)."

Al-Rahman believes Jordan's elections will contribute to the pressure already on some countries by the internatonal liberation phenomenon. "It would add to the external factors pushing democratisation," he said.

A European diplomat argues that "democracy is exportable" and what happened in Eastern Europe can be a lesson to autocratic regimes elsewhere. "I realise there are many differences between the two regions but once one country starts on the path, others are more encouraged to follow." He asserts that people everywhere, including in Middle East, are seeking ways to change the one-party rule system and participate in the decision-making process.

'Ibrahim, who is more optimistic than the other Arab analysts interviewed, believes that the 1990s "is going to be the decade of democratisation in the Arab World."

'Effective Organization' Key to Islamic Victory

*JN2511103089 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic
25 Nov 89 p 2*

[Interview with Tahir al-Masri, member of the Jordanian House of Representatives, by Tal'at Shana'ah in Amman; date not given]

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] [Shana'ah] A great deal has been said about the election campaign and the considerable success achieved by the Islamic trend. What do you think about this success? Is it a true reflection of Jordanian public opinion?

[Al-Masri] The Islamic trend won a large number of parliamentary seats. The strength of this trend was visible before the day at the polls. However, this great success with such a gap between votes obtained by the Islamic Movement candidates and other candidates was certainly not expected. But if we objectively analyze the election results, we find that one of the major reasons for this major success has been effective organization. The Islamic Movement was preparing itself for the election day without competition from others.

It organized its affairs, campaign, and strategy well. On the other hand, most candidates, even those with other political orientations, acted individually.

Another reason for this success is the abstention of a high percentage of the population from exercising their voting rights. This section of the population does not usually vote in favor of the Islamic Movement. However, the election results should be accepted by everyone, because they are the people's choice and we have opted for democracy as our path. Nevetheless, I do not expect the next election to produce the same religious and political trends. [passage omitted]

[Shana'ah] What are the priorities in your upcoming actions in the House of Representatives?

[Al-Masri] I believe the agenda will be full of topics. The first priority for me is to consolidate the democratic experience and parliamentary life at this stage. This can be achieved through daily practice, not in the first days or weeks of the new House, but throughout its entire tenure. Afterward, the emphasis will be on the need to release liberties. Through my answers to the previous questions, I have tried to indicate that there is no fear of releasing public liberties, since the representatives of the people and the citizens have a great deal of awareness and responsibility. This is a weapon in our hands—that we the representatives of the people strongly demand before the executive authority the release of public liberties.

It is understood that party life, freedom of the press, and removing security restrictions are within the realm of the release of public liberties.

[Shana'ah] Do the Islamic trend's pre-election programs and statements arouse a fear of conflagration with our lifestyle?

[Al-Masri] There will definitely be differences between the various political and social trends inside the House. However, it is in the interest of everyone inside and outside the House to keep differences within the framework of sound democratic dealing. The Muslim Brotherhood movement has won a large number of seats through a democratic experience that has been unique in the entire region. The success of the Muslim Brotherhood and the experience is being monitored and studied by all Arab states and even some foreign states. This will lead to a careful consideration of any sharp social or religious resolutions before issuing them. Therefore, I do not believe the next stage will witness a social conflagration between the Islamic trend deputies and other deputies. People should not be frightened of such orientations. The Islamic Movement represents a large sector of the community and has won in a free election. They have the right to express their views on others' opinions and legislations. [passage omitted]

Bank Governor Cited on Arab Support, Election

*JN2811112289 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic
28 Nov 89 p 4*

[Report on an interview with Dr Muhammad Sa'id al-Nabulsi, governor of the Central Bank of Jordan [CBJ], given jointly to Amman AL-DUSTUR and Kuwait AL-SIYASAH by Mustafa Abu-Libdah; date and place not given]

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] When asked about the reports published in foreign newspapers talking of possible big changes in economic legislations as a result of the parliamentary elections and the big victory scored by the religious bloc in these elections, Dr al-Nabulsi said this issue is first and foremost political. Consequently, this issue does not fall under the jurisdiction of the CBJ governor, he added. He expressed the conviction one of the axioms governing democratic practice is everything has a price. It is true some of the things pertaining to the philosophy of our economic policy might be reviewed in light of the election results, al-Nabulsi said. However, this does not justify the concern and fear being disseminated by some because of the big victory scored by the religious bloc, the CBJ governor added.

The CBJ governor believes there are no signs of contradiction between the philosophy guiding the economic policies being pursued and the Islamic perspective on economic issues. He added: "I so far have not seen in all of the statements made by the Muslim Brotherhood and even the leftists any substantial premises conflicting with the state's economic philosophy. There is an economic entity in Jordan based on specific foundations, particularly on the laissez-faire policy, albeit with some centralized direction on the philosophy of market economies. I do not believe the Muslim Brotherhood or the leftists proposed drastic premises conflicting with these things." [passage omitted]

On the possibility of discussing usurious banking interest and its effect on the financial and banking situation, Dr al-Nabulsi said: It is well known these issues previously were tackled by other states, including Iran and Pakistan, and that no drastic solutions so far have been found for this problem. If practical solutions are found for the interest issue, we immediately will put them in force. Islam is the state religion in Jordan, and we will not wait for any party to come and tell us this issue is one of the pillars of the true Islamic religion. [passage omitted]

On the pressures that might arise from the mere discussion of the usurious interest and its repercussions on the economic climate, even if a bill on such an issue is not passed by the parliament, Dr al- Nabulsi said he does not feel there are grounds for fear or concern in this regard. What is reassuring about this issue is ideas are being voiced in democratic atmospheres that allow for an exchange of views and for the endorsement of what is best for the country, he added. Anyhow, we in Jordan have always been practical people accepting compromise solutions—solutions which allow for flexibility and interaction with new thoughts and ideas. Therefore, neither the adjustment program nor the consequent measures Jordan has taken concerning the foreign debt or its external and internal commitments, or Jordan's practical outlook, can be harmed by the new parliamentary and political situation in Jordan, the CBJ governor remarked. Dr al-Nabulsi added there is no party that can undermine Jordan's investment climate and the bank transfers sent to Jordan for deposit or investment purposes. Besides, the protection granted to capital cannot be undermined. Hence, we are fully confident all efforts will seek to create new motives for investment to serve the interests of the country and help it achieve a steady development, Dr al-Nabulsi said.

On the shakeup characterizing the experience of investment and Islamic banks in Egypt and other states, Dr al-Nabulsi said the improper implementation of the law rather than the Islamic banking philosophy is to be faulted. Had there been stringent banking control and monitoring as stipulated by the law, mistakes would not have been made in Islamic banks and financial companies, he added. The CBJ governor expressed the conviction that what happened with the (Jordanian) Islamic Investment House is totally different from what happened with the al-Rayyan companies in Egypt. He added the problems faced at the Islamic Investment House were caused by mismanagement, whereas those caused at the al-Rayyan firms resulted from absence of control and monitoring devices. [passage omitted]

On the issue of the 140,000 gold ounces mortgaged by the previous CBJ administration, Dr al-Nabulsi said one-third of this quantity has been freed. We hope we will be able to free the rest of the quantity during the coming few months, he added. The CBJ governor went on to say the details of the final agreement signed by Jordan and the London Club of creditor commercial banks will be released this week.

Dr al-Nabulsi described contacts with the Arab central banks, especially those of the Gulf Cooperation Council, as contacts that seek to draw up "a contingency cooperation plan." If we feel our reserves went down below a specific limit, the Arab central banks would provide us with some emergency support which we might call "a cushioning net". The CBJ governor added: We found the brothers are ready to cooperate with us well in this regard. We attained specific results in this regard. On Saturday (beginning of next week), we will sign the first agreement in this regard. These agreements were drafted according to the traditional and well-known banking traditions. I would like to note here the brothers are satisfied that Jordan is seeking support after internal measures falling in harmony with the adjustment program were taken in the country. Hence, this support will remain confined to preventive support. It will not be part of the usual political support.

Al-Karak Deputy on Debt, Muslim Brotherhood

JN2511100289 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 25 Nov 89 p 3

[Interview with al-Karak House of Representatiaves Deputy 'Isa Madanat by Fayruz Mubayyidin; date not given]

[Excerpts] [Mubayyidin] What are the priority tasks in the House of Representatives as you see them?

[Madanat] The first priority must be the release of public freedoms. In other words, the articles on democratic liberties stipulated by the Jordanian Constitution must be activated. The remnants of the past period, in which people were taken into account for their ideologies, must be removed.

I was among those charged with extremism, and an 18-year prison sentence was passed against me, 7 years of which I spent behind bars—between 1957 and 1965.

[Mubayyidin] In your opinion, what are the best ways to tackle the economic problem?

[Madanat] I believe there must be disengagement with organizations whose basic task is to impose hegemony, particularly the IMF. The IMF asks for very high interest rates, and studies show 75 percent of the gross national product [GNP] in Jordan in 1995 will not be enough to pay this interest. By the end of this century, our entire GNP will not be able to repay such debts. I will call for linking Jordan economically with third world countries and nonaligned countries, particularly since the nonaligned countries noted in their recent meeting the need to review these debts with the aim of canceling part of them or postponing them until further notice.

I wonder why we should pay all these debts—especially since we do not have sufficient resources, and since we have to mobilize all our resources and kill development opportunities to repay these debts. Therefore, I believe we must cooperate with the developed and nonaligned countries to fairly tackle the problem. [passage omitted]

[Mubayyidin] Do you really believe the results of the elections represent the inclination of Jordanian society? And does this necessarily mean the elected deputies will exercise the required democracy?

[Madanat] The results of the elections are the results of trends that have been prevalent among the people throughout the past period. When the people are deprived of their liberties and when not all trends have the ability to express themselves equally, the people will choose those which are more organized and more dominant.

[Mubayyidin] Does this mean you are not with the Muslim Brotherhood, and does your party [the Communist Party] call for fighting them?

[Madanat] This is absolutely incorrect. I personally was asked by one of the old governments to adopt some measures against the Muslim Brotherhood, but I categorically rejected this despite the difference in our viewpoints in terms of ideology and thinking. The people have made their choice with democracy—the people are the one who decide, and the people's choice is the best.

I do not believe differences will emerge between us on the general issues on which no two people disagree. [passage omitted]

[Mubayyidin] What is the nature of the national bloc, and what are its objectives and tasks?

[Madanat] This bloc still is in the process of establishment. It might be called "the democratic grouping," and it might comprise approximately 20 deputies. The task of this group is to coordinate work and consolidate ideas. [passage omitted]

Decrees Appoint Intelligence, Medical Chiefs

JN2611195489 Amman PETRA-JNA in Arabic 1425 GMT 26 Nov 89

[Text] Amman, 26 Nov (PETRA)—A royal decree has been issued approving the Council of Ministers' decision to appoint Dr 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali director general of the National Medical Institution effective today.

A royal decree has also been issued approving the Council of Ministers' decision to appoint Major General Mustafa 'Abd-al-Karim al-Qaysi director of General Intelligence effective today.

Arab League Secretary General Klibi Visits Amman

JN2711191689 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 27 Nov 89

[Text] Arab League Secretary General Chedli Klibi this evening arrived in Amman on his way to Cairo. He was received at Amman airport by Marwan al-Qasim, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, and the Foreign Ministry's secretary general.

Confers With Prime Minister

JN2811112789 Amman PETRA-JNA in Arabic 0945 GMT 28 Nov 89

[Text] Amman, 28 Nov (PETRA)—Prime Minister al-Sharif Zayd Bin-Shakir received at the Prime Ministry this morning Arab League Secretary General Chedli Klibi in the presence of Marwan al-Qasim, deputy prime minister and foreign minister.

During the meeting, they discussed developments in Middle East issues, particularly those pertaining to attempts at advancing peace efforts to resolve the Palestine question, as well as efforts to resolve the Lebanese crisis in a manner that will ensure Lebanon's unity, independence, and sovereignty, and help restore security and peace in Lebanon. The talks also revolved around the situation in southern Sudan and efforts to end the ongoing fighting there.

Klibi expressed his admiration and appreciation of the positive ideas, the comprehensive outlook on the Arab nation's issues, and the desire to achieve this nation's objectives contained in the inaugural speech from the throne delivered yesterday by His Majesty King Husayn when he opened the 11th Jordanian Parliament. He affirmed the king's speech is a clear message and a manifestation of a sound Arab policy to be emulated. [Amman Domestic Service in English at 1200 GMT on 28 November broadcasts a similar report, which adds the following: "The Arab League secretary general later left Amman for Cairo."]

Italian-Jordanian Panel To Allocate Loans

JN2911084089 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 29 Nov 89 P 6

[Report by a "JORDAN TIMES Staff Writer"]

[Excerpts] Amman—Jordan and Italy have set up a joint committee to streamline economic cooperation and the first task that is awaiting the panel is allocating $43 million in Italian soft loans to Jordan.

The agreement to form the committee was reached Oct. 30. Senior officials from the two sides will meet in Amman in early 1990 to formalise the establishment of the panel, which will be headed on the Italian side by the secretary of the Foreign Ministry in Rome, according to Dr. Massimo Lavezzo, first secretary at the Italian Embassy in Amman.

The first protocol—"memorandum of understanding"—signed Nov. 26, 1984, provided for a $10 million Italian grant to Jordan and $50 million in soft loans. The grant was allocated to various projects in the next two years, but only $7 million of the soft-loan was appropriated, Dr. Lavezzo said.

He explained that one of the conditions of the loan, which carries 1.75 per cent annual interest and repayable in 15 years with a five-year grace, was that it could be appropriated only for Italian goods or services.

The main project covered under the $7 million loan was a potato storage plant set up in cooperation with the Agricultural Marketing and Processing Company. [passage omitted]

In addition, the Italian government extended an additional grant of $10 million for 1988-1990. Projects envisaged under this grant include the second phases of Jerash restoration work and the stone workshop of Ma'an, construction of a 100-bed hospital in al-Karak, a school for electricians and a school for graphic arts in Amman, a mosaic school in Madaba, according to Dr. Lavezzo.

"These proposals are currently under consideration by the foreign ministry in Rome," he said.

Italy has also donated rice worth three billion lire (approximately $2.3 million) as food aid to Jordan, Dr. Lavezzo said. The shipment is expected to arrive here next month.

One of the ideas under consideration for allocating the soft-loan amount is to have the Industrial Development Bank (IDB) set up a special credit line for enterpreneurs to set up small-scale industries, Lavezzo said. "We are holding consultations with the IDB to allocate $10 million to $15 million for the special credit line." [passage omitted]

According to Dr. Lavezzo, the main problem that appeared to have delayed the allocation of the $50 million soft loan was the Italian condition that it could only be used for Italian goods or services. "We participated in many international tenders and contracts in Jordan," he said. "But somehow, Italian firms were not granted the tender or contract, and thus the loan was not appropriated."

Jordanian-Algerian Trade Talks Conducted in Amman

JN2711132589 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 27 Nov 89 p 6

[Text] Amman (J.T.)—Teams from Jordan and Algeria opened talks here Sunday to explore ways to increase economic and trade cooperation between them and pave the way for trade fairs to be held in Amman and Algiers to promote the sale of national products.

The balance of trade between the two countries is unfavourable for both sides due to the low level of trade between them as a result of the geographical location and the Algerian economic link to European countries, the head of the Jordanian side, Mohammad 'Asfour, told the opening session.

'Asfour, who is also president of the Amman Chamber of Commerce, said that lack of coordination between Jordan and Algeria and the absence of trade dealings as well as the limited production base in the two countries were also to be blamed for the present situation.

'Asfour suggested that trade fairs for Jordan and Algeria, to be organised in each other's capital, are bound to promote the sale of national products and that exchanges of visits by businessmen and officials in charge of trade and economy would also pave the way for a fruitful relationship.

'Asfour briefed the visitors on the economic development in Jordan and said that the Algerian team's visit is bound to contribute to the creation of a favourable climate for trade.

The head of the Algerian side, Mr. Rashid Sihri, said that there was a good chance for the two countries to launch a fruitful relationship. He added that the delegation would benefit from the visit during which its members would acquaint themelves with Jordan's economic development and would try to benefit from the Kingdom's experiments in industry and trade.

The two sides, grouping businessmen and members of chambers of industry and commerce, held working sessions during which the Jordanian side presented a working paper outlining Jordanian laws concerning investment and trade, exemptions to investors, regulations concerning imports and exports and facilities given for trade with the Arab World.

The Algerian side presented a working paper dealing with the recent economic reforms which paved the way for the country's free trade with Arab and foreign countries.

Later, the Algerian delegation had a meeting with the secretary-general of the Ministry of Industry and Trade

Mohammad al-Saqqaf with whom they reviewed Jordanian-Algerian trade relations and ways to open new channels to raise their level.

Al-Saqqaf said that trade fairs and agreements between Amman and Algiers on definite trade deals would help boost bilateral commerce and open the way for the private sector in both countries to contribute to improving trade cooperation.

Al-Saqqaf and the Algerians also reviewed earlier agreements on imports and exports.

Dealings With Some Foreign Companies Banned

JN2711132089 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 27 Nov 89 p3

[Text] (PETRA)—The Finance Ministry has banned dealing with 85 foreign companies after discovering they deal with Israel in violation of the unified Arab Boycott Law. The Ministry also lifted the ban imposed on 46 foreign companies which corrected their policies to conform with the provisions of the Arab Boycott Law.

Syrians Move Tanks, Artillery to 'Frontline'

NC2811183889 Paris AFP in English 1830 GMT 28 Nov 89

[Excerpt] Beirut, Nov 28 (AFP)—Lebanon's new cabinet Tuesday stripped Christian leader Michel 'Awn of his post as army commander-in-chief as thousands of supporters rallied at his headquarters where he has vowed to make a last stand.

In defiance of the order, a source close to the staunchly anti-Syrian General 'Awn said that "all the decisions of the administration named by Syria are null and anti-constitutional."

The Syrian Army, meanwhile, moved at least extra 50 tanks and 30 pieces of field artillery since Monday to the frontline with the 15,000 troops loyal to the general, east and southeast of Beirut, according to concurring sources.

Gen. 'Awn's troops were on a state of alert in anticipation of an attack, a pro-'Awn military source said.

The reports came as tension was acute in the Lebanese capital following warnings by President Ilyas al-Hurawi to order a lightning strike on the B'abda presidential palace southeast of here.

In an telephone interview with French radio France Inter, Gen. 'Awn rejected "as inexistent any act emanating from a fictitious authority," after Prime Minister Salim al-Huss stripped him of his role as commander-in-chief.

"In any case, I am head of government before being commander in chief of the army," the general added.

"It's now the whole Lebanese people which are on strike and which block all roads in the B'abda region," he continued. "It's thus about eliminating a population and not a general in power or a politician." [passage omitted]

Convoys Head to Suq al-Gharb

NC2811193589 Paris AFP in English 1928 GMT 28 Nov 89

[Excerpt] Beirut, Nov 28 (AFP)—Hundreds of residents of mainly Moslem West Beirut and the Shiite suburbs fled the capital late Tuesday amid rising fears of a military showdown between the new government and Christian leader Michel 'Awn.

The Syrian Army was moving more soldiers and tanks to the frontline with General 'Awn's 15,000 troops near the B'abda presidential palace, which the anti-Syrian leader has refused to leave, according to concurring sources.

Dozens of tanks and armoured vehicles have entered the Shiite Southern Suburbs, below Ba'bda, correspondents said.

Security sources said the Soviet-built T-54 tanks and troop carriers arrived mostly from Syria through the border post of al-Masna'. The convoys were also headed for the key front of Suq al-Gharb, a gateway to the Christian region.

As panic began to spread, hundreds of civilians fled toward southern Lebanon with mattresses strapped on the roof of their cars.

Pro-Syrian circles in the Lebanese capital were unsure whether the troop movements were designed merely to pressure Gen. 'Awn or a sign that a military confrontation was imminent. [passage omitted]

Suq al-Gharb Shelled

NC2811193389 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1915 GMT 28 Nov 89

[Text] The area of Suq al-Gharb was the target of a number of artillery shells between 2030 and 2115 tonight. The fire originated from Syrian positions on the opposite side.

Ja'ja's Lebanese Forces To Defend 'Free Areas'

NC2911144089 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1415 GMT 29 Nov 89

[Text] Lebanese Forces Commander Dr Samir Ja'ja' has stressed that the Lebanese Forces reject any threat to the eastern area from whatever side. He also stressed that the Lebanese Forces are responsible for every house, citizen, and establishment in all free Lebanese areas. The Lebanese Forces will defend these areas with their last breath as they have defended them since the start of the war 2 years ago on all fronts when there was no one to defend Lebanon except a handful of youths.

At a news conference this afternoon, Dr Ja'ja' explained that he had given orders last night. After he summoned the Lebanese Forces General Staff, he gave them orders to be prepared to fight alongside their comrades in the Lebanese army in defense of the free areas.

Al-Hirawi Vows Army Will Control All Territory

NC2811203989 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 2015 GMT 28 Nov 89

[Text] In a statement to French television's Channel 2, President Ilyas al-Hirawi said: I accepted my mission to unify Lebanon and restore independence and sovereignty throughout the country in the very near future. He added: This is my basic task, and I will accomplish it whatever the cost. Sooner or later, Al- Hirawi said, the Lebanese army will control all 10,452 sq km of Lebanese territory.

New Army Commander Issues Order of Day

NC2811211789 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 2045 GMT 28 Nov 89

[Text] General Emile Lahhud, who has been appointed army commander by the Al-Huss government, issued an order of the day to military personnel this evening. He called on them to join the legitimate government and the march toward peace, unity, and sovereignty. He said: The peace option, which I and the national accord government have adopted, depends on your behavior today and on your choice between legality and nonlegality, between unity and partition, and between discipline and mutiny. Do not allow this option to lead us to a decision to settle matters in a way that would endanger your fate and the fate of your children.

'Awn on New Appointments, Syrian Reinforcements

NC2911070489 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0615 GMT 29 Nov 89

[Text] There is an international drive to contain the situation in Lebanon and avert potential military escalation. There is also continued support for the peaceful implementation of the al-Ta'if agreement. Paralleling this are the local mediation efforts being undertaken by the Catholic patriarchs and Bishops Council.

A French parliamentary delegation is expected to arrive today to hold a meeting with Prime Minister General Michel 'Awn.

In another development, Gen 'Awn addressed an open message to the entire world, especially France, to put pressure on the occupation forces to prevent them from continuing their aggression against Lebanon.

In a live interview with the French TF-1 television station, Gen 'Awn said: I have not been dismissed because this decision was made by a nonexistent authority. This authority was created by the Syrians and its key personalities are pro-Syrian.

Gen 'Awn contended that General Emil Lahhud is not the army commander, both legally and realistically.

He asserted that the Syrian forces have brought reinforcements to Lebanon, noting movements undertaken by these forces. He accused Syria of being involved in terrorist acts in Lebanon and of eliminating anyone who opposes the Syrian regime. He said: For this reason, Rene Mu'awwad and many others were killed.

Gen 'Awn added that the Syrians are appointing the government members and that they will later appoint the members of parliament, so that they will be able, with these legislative and executive authorities, to sign distinctive agreements to impose their hegemony on Lebanon. This will be the last step before annexing the country completely, he said.

'Awn called on the Lebanese to initiate a dialogue so that the current serious situation does not develop into confrontation.

Improves B'abda Palace Defenses

NC2911081489 (Clandestine) Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic to Lebanon 0630 GMT 29 Nov 89

[Text] Aides to the Maronite general [Michel 'Awn] have reported that barbed wire has been placed on the roof of B'abda Palace in anticipation of, and as an obstacle to, any military (?landing) operation. The same sources [as heard] added that anti-vehicle mines have been planted in the woods surrounding the palace.

Reportedly Willing To Compromise

NC2911092089 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0845 GMT 29 Nov 89

[Text] For the second successive day, the general strike and sit-in continue around the Republican Palace in B'abda. The streets of the liberated areas are the scene of huge popular demonstrations. Student committees will assemble before the Bustrus Palace in al-Ashrafiyah in a little while to organize a demonstration in support of General Michel 'Awn.

In the south, the area of Jazzin began an open strike today amid popular demonstrations in support of the prime minister.

Speaking to demonstrators at dawn today, Gen 'Awn reiterated that he will continue to respond to the desire of the people to live in freedom and peace and to reject anything imposed on the Lebanese by foreign powers.

In an interview with Europe-1 radio, Gen 'Awn said that the Syrian forces have brought reinforcements to Lebanon. He accused Damascus of operating in Lebanon as a terrorist state, removing anyone who opposes its regime. He said that Rene Mu'awwad was killed for this reason. He addressed an open appeal to all nations, particularly France, to exercise pressure on the occupation forces so they will not continue their aggression against Lebanon.

'Awn declared that he is ready to accept a compromise and to respect Syria's vital interests. However, he made this contingent upon respecting Lebanon's sovereignty and independence, the Lebanese people's right to self-determination, and other human rights.

Gen 'Awn called on the Lebanese to negotiate so that the serious situation would not turn into a confrontation. Regarding the decision to replace him as army commander, he said that he was not dismissed, because the decision was issued by a nonexistent authority.

Urges France To Act as Mediator

NC2911094689 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0915 GMT 29 Nov 89

[Text] Prime Minister General Michel 'Awn today called on France to undertake mediation to reach agreements that would preserve the minimum basic rights of the Lebanese people.

In an interview with Europe-1 radio, Gen 'Awn said he has much respect and appreciation for the French stand, and called on President Mitterrand to couple the statements with a signal that could be a deterrent. He emphasized that for his part, he will not be the first to resume the fighting. He noted that he anticipates a Syrian air attack against B'abda Palace, adding that the Syrians have the means and hundreds of fighters to do so, but this will not prevent the Lebanese from defending themselves until the end.

In response to a question on how many troops he had, Gen 'Awn said: They are not many, and therefore it is heroism that will make this battle, and we will stand fast until either we finish off everybody, or, if the Syrians win, we are finished. We will go all the way to the end, he added.

French Parliamentarians Hold Meeting With 'Awn

Deputies Arrive in Halat

NC2911104089 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1015 GMT 29 Nov 89

[Text] Thirty French deputies arrived at Halat Airport on private planes this morning. They are expected to arrive at B'abda Palace at any moment, where they will meet with Prime Minister General Michel 'Awn and head for the sit-in that is being staged in the palace compound. The delegation is made up of parliamentary figures from the French opposition.

Deputies Support 'Awn

NC2911124989 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1145 GMT 29 Nov 89

[Excerpt] Michel al-Kik reports from B'abda Palace:

[Begin recording] At 1315 today, 18 French deputies arrived in the Republican Palace in B'abda with the French flag pinned to their chests. It is worth noting that their arrival had been delayed for 2 hours because thousands of demonstrators were blocking the roads leading to the Republican Palace.

A private plane brought the deputies, along with 15 French reporters representing the various mass media, from Paris to Halat Airport. Two other planes carrying more French deputies are expected to arrive in Halat this afternoon. The total number of French deputies is expected to reach approximately 30.

The delegation members are meeting at this moment with General Michel 'Awn.

Upon arrival at the Republican Palace, the deputies expressed their solidarity with Lebanon and their support for Gen 'Awn's course. They also said they hoped that they will be able to change French policy. [passage omitted] [end recording]

'Awn Comments After Meeting

NC2911131589 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1215 GMT 29 Nov 89

[Text] Emerging from a meeting with the French parliamentary delegation at 1415, Prime Minister General Michel 'Awn said: O people of Lebanon; O children, young people, and elders of Lebanon: You made a choice and struggled for the sake of freedom, sovereignty, and independence.

O people of Lebanon: Your sacred and pure will and the expression of your civilization, as demonstrated by this lofty stand against the dictatorial and barbaric principles brought to bear on us and on our struggle by the occupation forces or by the political powers behind them, will change the course of history, not only in Lebanon, but in the entire Middle East. You have made your point strongly enough to whoever wants to understand. Today, we declare from this place that we will not retreat from our demands for our right to self-determination in a free atmosphere, away from the occupation and the occupation forces. We will not accept anything less than a free, sovereign, and independent homeland.

Gen 'Awn added: On your behalf, I thank the French people as represented by their deputies who are present with us now.

Ministry Calls Deputies' Visit 'Interference'

NC2911122189 (Clandestine) Voice of the People in Arabic to Lebanon 1130 GMT 29 Nov 89

[Text] The Lebanese Foreign Ministry has expressed its dismay at the visit by a French parliamentary delegation, and has issued the following statement:

Some local news organs are reporting that 30 deputies belonging to the French opposition parties have arrived in Lebanon to contact Michel 'Awn. Among the delegation are some deputies who visited Lebanon earlier but, regrettably, looked at the truth from one side only and issued biased statements that were not in the interest of Lebanon and its people.

The statement added: The Ministry of Foreign and Expatriate Affairs is surprised that the delegation should visit General 'Awn after the cabinet issued a decree relieving him of the army command and appointing a new army commander. The ministry also sees no justification for this visit and considers it a blatant interference in Lebanon's internal affairs. It also conflicts with the official French stand, which supports the legitimate Lebanese authority as represented by the presidency, the government, and the Chamber of Deputies.

Al-Huss Information Minister on 'Confrontation'

NC2711170389 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1515 GMT 27 Nov 89

[Text] Edmond Rizq, information minister in the al-Huss government, has emphasized a confrontation can be averted. At a news conference in Shtawrah, he called on key figures of the various establishments to immediately join the peace process represented by the unified legitimate government. He said no one should consider this government as one of war, but a government of peace, because it relies on the principle of reconciliation and national unity. He said there is no battle or confrontation that cannot be averted, because the fate of the Lebanese is to live in peace and not to engage in internecine fighting.

Says No One Wants To Attack Christians

NC2911133289 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1230 GMT 29 Nov 89

[Text] Information Minister Edmond Rizq, who took over the ministry today from Prime Minister Dr Salim al-Huss, has called on the citizens in the eastern areas not to be deceived by disinformation campaigns, stressing that no one wants to harm or fight them. He said that the Al-Huss government is a government of peace and not of war.

Minister Rizq was speaking at a news conference in the foreign correspondents' hall at the Information Ministry. Appealing to the citizens in the eastern area, he said: O kinfolk in the eastern area, do not believe that anyone will attack you. Do not accept this emotional incitement because they can offer you nothing but euphoria, destruction, and ruin.

Addressing Michel 'Awn, Rizq said: I do not want to get involved in vituperations with anyone, but do you not believe that the time has come for you to rest and thus let the people and the country rest? It is shameful to have war, violence, and killing as the option. We want unity for the army and protection for it, because it is the army that will impose sovereignty over Lebanon's territory.

Coordination Bureau Urges Strike's Continuation

NC2811195689 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1915 GMT 28 Nov 89

[Text] The Central Bureau for National Coordination has called for the continuation of the strike in various sectors tomorrow, with the exception of hospitals, pharmacies, bakeries, and gas stations, and for remaining in and around the presidential palace grounds night and day. It also called for continued readiness to confront any emergency.

Meanwhile, the Christian students committees have called for a rally outside the Foreign Ministry in al-Ashrafiyah at 1100 tomorrow to express their rejection of the threat to the eastern area.

Thousands Demonstrate Outside Foreign Ministry

NC2911105689 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1015 GMT 29 Nov 89

[Text] In response to a call by Christian student committees, thousands gathered outside the Foreign Ministry this morning carrying Lebanese flags as well as banners in support of General Michel 'Awn. Faruq Abu-al-Lam', Foreign Ministry secretary general, delivered a speech to the demonstrators in which he said: We are the legitimacy, and we will remain the bastion of freedom. We sanctify freedom and honor and will not kneel down or surrender. He added: They threatened us and promised incursion. We are anxiously awaiting the incursion. Each and every Lebanese is Michel 'Awn, he added. He pointed out that we are facing the battle of our destiny, we will either survive or die.

Eastern Area 'Sources' Criticize Sfayr Remarks

NC2511151989 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1345 GMT 25 Nov 89

[Text] Lebanon today bade farewell to martyr President Rene Mu'awwad and his six comrades. Party, spiritual, and diplomatic figures took part in the funeral rites. Patriarch Sfayr, who officiated at the prayers, noted in his patriarchal message martyr President Mu'awwad was a man of dialogue, flexibility, and tact who hated violence and coercion.

Meanwhile, political sources in the eastern area expressed surprise at Patriarch Sfayr's allusion in his eulogy for martyr President Mu'awwad to the painful event which occurred more than a decade ago in Ihdin [assassination of former President Franjiyah's son Tony and his family in 1978]. The sources pointed out the existing divergence of stands and views within Christian ranks makes it incumbent on the patriarch, in view of his spiritual and temporal status, to refrain from reminding people of issues bound to stir up feelings, reopen wounds, and recall incidents that in their time caused serious divisions in Christian ranks.

The sources also expressed the view the role of Bkirki [the Maronite Patriarchate] is to contribute in a positive and constructive way, in word and deed, to everything that will help restore cohesion to Christian ranks, particularly as the signs of rapprochement and understanding can be discerned ahead. The sources added that in these special circumstances it would be wise to search for common denominators that unite Christian parties, instead of recalling those things that separate them, in order to face the forthcoming tasks which lie ahead for the Lebanese people in general, and the Christians in particular.

The sources went on to say if the reference in the patriarch's speech was accidental, then it was a disaster. They added it would be a greater disaster if it were intentional.

Phalangist Leader Defends Al-Ta'if Agreement

NC2611184889 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1715 GMT 26 Nov 89

[Text] Phalangist leader George Sa'adah has stressed the al-Ta'if agreement is the best and least costly way to save Lebanon. In an address to the Lebanese people and the Phalangists on the 53d anniversary of the party's founding, Sa'adah said: If, after the failure of several initiatives, the al-Ta'if agreement achieves no more than a meeting of the Lebanese leaders to agree among themselves on a unified approach to the homeland, then we must not reject the opportunity of holding such a meeting. He added: If there is a conspiracy to divide Lebanon's sons and to partition and share the country, then the tools of this conspiracy are the Lebanese themselves. A ray of hope appeared with the election of a new president of the republic, but his assassination turned this hope into a new tragedy. It was Lebanon's destiny that two of its presidents should be martyred less than a month after they were elected.

Phalangist Group Formed To Meet Eastern Figures

NC2611193689 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1715 GMT 26 Nov 89

[Text] Members of the Phalangist Party's political bureau visited Dr George Sa'adah in Shibtin today. They congratulated him on the 53d anniversary of the party's founding. A meeting on the occasion reviewed the delicate stage the country is experiencing, particularly following the assassination of President Rene Mu'awwad, the election of the new president of the republic, and the formation of the government. The party leader briefed the conferees on his contacts with some key figures in the past 48 hours. He also heard a report by the political bureau's members who had carried some contacts on the issue. A committee was formed to make contacts and consult with some key figures in the eastern area.

The committee began making its contacts this evening. Party deputy leader Attorney Munir al-Haj visited Patriarch Sfayr at the head of a political bureau delegation. These contacts will continue; the party holds an expanded meeting at noon tomorrow.

Phalangist Party Official Comments on Situation

NC2711164889 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1445 GMT 27 Nov 89

[Text] The Phalangist Party Political Bureau, which met at its central headquarters at noon today, decided to keep its meetings open and to intensify contacts and consultations with all parties to prevent a renewal of war and to act to return the dispute to the political sphere.

Phalangist Party deputy leader Munir al-Haj said during the meeting: Aside from the threats, whether they are true or not, and the responses to them, we believe the situation is difficult and open to dangerous possibilities. In view of this impending danger, we must return to the language of dialogue between us to confront these developments, because it is useless for each of us to adhere to our stand and be satisfied in preparing our self-defense and accusing others of causing what may happen. Al-Haj called for a flexible stand for salvation and unity.

Maronite Bishops Council Ready To Mediate

NC2711210489 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 27 Nov 89

[Text] Papal Nuncio Pablo Puente today stated the Lebanese situation is delicate, and the Vatican soon will approach everyone concerned to find a sound solution.

The papal nuncio earlier had attended the extraordinary meeting held by the council of Maronite bishops to deal with the military mutiny led by General Michel 'Awn in the eastern area.

The council issued a statement calling for the immediate start of a dialogue to extricate Lebanon from its crisis. The statement said: We are prepared to mediate and hope to bring the viewpoints together and find an honorable way out for all parties concerned.

Bishops Meet Al-Hirawi, 'Awn

NC2811184289 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1645 GMT 28 Nov 89

[Text] Bishop Roland Abu-Jawdah returned to Bkirki this evening after he and Bishops Andre Haddad and George Iskandar visited Shtawrah as envoys of Patriarch Sfayr. Upon arrival at the Patriarchate seat, Bishop Abu-Jawdah made the following statement:

[Begin recording] [Abu-Jawdah] I, along with my brothers Bishops George Iskandar and Andre Haddad, visited Shtawrah as envoys of the Catholic archbishops and the Patriarchs and Bishops Council in Lebanon. The council met in Bkirki yesterday and called on all parties to refrain from resorting to weapons, find an honorable way out for all parties, and safeguard Lebanon's sovereignty and independence. The council also praised all good offices' efforts. Our visit falls within the framework of the good offices' efforts being made to save Lebanon. We hope this visit will achieve the desired results.

[Unidentified reporter] Do you think the talks with Ilyas al-Hirawi will have positive results, or should the talks have been held with other officials?

[Abu-Jawdah] We must talk to all parties so that they choose dialogue and understanding, as the Catholic partriarchs and bishops council urged.

[Reporter] What did you achieve?

[Abu-Jawdah] We conveyed a message to al-Hirawi, and he is prepared to see what he can do.

[Question] Did he say whether the threat to take military action was serious or only talk?

[Abu-Jawdah] He believes he may have been misquoted by the media, and that his words were not so sharp. He said he did not mean his words to be seen as being so sharp, and that he yesterday he made another statement in which he called for love to prevail and extended his hand for dialogue and understanding. Certainly, all this falls within a framework of understanding so he can reach the presidential palace.

[Reporter] Does he insist on reaching the presidential palace?

[Abu-Jawdah] That is what we gathered. [end recording]

Patriarch Sfayr sent Bishops Bisharah al-Ra'i and Yusuf Bisharah to B'abda Palace today where they met with Prime Minister General Michel 'Awn. After the visit, Bishiop Bisharah al-Ra'i said: We oppose weapons and force and favor dialogue to resolve all our problems. We bless all popular uprisings that set an example to the world. He stressed the visit to B'abda is a sign of allegiance to and faith in Lebanon.

In response to a question, Bishiop al-Ra'i said the mediation efforts announced by the Patriarchs and Bishops Council has begun with all parties in Lebanon to end the language of weapons and frenzy.

France Invites Al-Huss to Arab-European Meeting

NC2811083389 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0800 GMT 28 Nov 89

[Text] France has extended an official invitation to Prime Minister Dr Salim al-Huss, in his capacity as Lebanese foreign minister, to attend an Arab-European meeting, which will be held in Paris before the end of December. French Ambassador Rene Ala delivered the invitation to Prime Minister al-Huss.

France's Scheer Holds Talks With Al-Hirawi

Welcomed by Ambassador Ala

NC2811120589 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1115 GMT 28 Nov 89

[Text] Francois Scheer, secretary general of the French Foreign Ministry, arrived shortly before noon today at Beirut Airport. He was received at the airport by French Ambassador Rene Ala.

Scheer immediately headed for Shtawrah to meet with President Ilyas al-Hirawi.

Confers With Al-Hirawi

NC2811151589 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1500 GMT 28 Nov 89

[Text] President Ilyas al-Hirawi has met with French Foreign Ministry Secretary General Francois Scheer in Shtawrah. French Ambassador Rene Ala also attended the meeting. It has been learned the atmosphere of the 3-hour meeting was satisfactory.

Departs for Damascus

NC2811173089 Ihdin Radio of Free and Unified Lebanon in Arabic 1630 GMT 28 Nov 89

[Text] Francois Scheer, French Foreign Ministry secretary general, left Shtawrah for Damascus this evening after delivering a message to President Ilyas al-Hirawi from French President Francois Mitterrand. Scheer did not disclose the contents of the message.

National Front Holds Meeting, Issues Statement

NC2711214089 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1730 GMT 27 Nov 89

[Text] The National Front held a meeting at the house of Minister Nabih Birri. It congratulated President al-Hirawi and lauded his determination to eliminate obstacles facing the salvation process.

In a statement issued after the meeting, the National Front appealed to the people in the eastern area and the Army's soldiers and officers to stand against 'Awn's suicidal conspiracy. It also urged influential forces in the eastern area to extend a hand of cooperation to halt the [word indistinct].

Junblatt Says '1 Week To Prevent Bloodshed'

NC2811193189 Ihdin Radio of Free and Unified Lebanon in Arabic 1900 GMT 28 Nov 89

[Text] Public Works Minister Walid Junblatt today called on General Michel 'Awn to leave the B'abda Palace to avert a war that would have grave consequences for all. He said: We have 1 week to prevent bloodshed; otherwise there will be a war for the next 100 years coupled with partition.

Hizballah Threatens Amal With Military Measures

NC2611195389 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1915 GMT 26 Nov 89

[Text] According to security sources in the south, Hizballah has warned Amal Movement it will take military measures against Amal to stop its campaign of detaining Hizballah members and supporters. This warning comes after Amal members detained some Hizballah members near the movement's checkpoints along main and secondary roads in the south.

Hizballah officials have stated the Amal Movement is violating their agreement, particularly the part allowing Hizballah members and supporters to return to their homes and positions in the south.

Sources said the Hizballah leadership in Beirut has decided to carry out military operations against Israel and the South Lebanese Army in the south without previous coordination with the Amal Movement or the joint operations room. The sources added this decision is the result of an agreement reached between Hizballah and officials of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command under Ahmad Jibril. This agreement stipulates Hizballah will train Palestinian units in al-Luwayzah and Jabal Safi in Iqlim al-Tuffah. It also provides for carrying out operations against Israel and the South Lebanese Army and for strengthening and fortifying Hizballah's positions against any possible threat from the Amal Movement.

Iran Reportedly Provides Arms to Hizballah

NC2811194089 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1915 GMT 28 Nov 89

[Text] According to security sources in southern Lebanon, the Amal Movement held a secret high-level meeting in Zifta. During the meeting, senior Amal officials discussed the visit to al-Biqa' last month by Iranian Interior Minister [as heard] Mohtashemi, who met with Hizballah officials. The Amal Movement's meeting took place after the movement had received information that Mohtashemi encouraged Hizballah, particularly the groups of Subhi al-Tufayli and 'Abbas al-Musawi, to strengthen their position in southern Lebanon politically and militarily and to expand cooperation between Hizballah and the Revolutionary Guards.

Security sources in southern Lebanon say that Iran has provided Hizballah forces in the south with arms, including bombs, rockets, and ammunition.

'Truckloads' of Arms Received

NC2911085689 (Clandestine) The Lebanese Radio in Arabic 0600 GMT 29 Nov 89

[Text] Security sources have reported that, contrary to the cease-fire agreement announced by the al-Ta'if communique, the flow of arms for organizations in occupied Beirut has continued.

Last Monday, Hizballah and the Amal Movement received truckloads of ammunition and light weapons.

In another development in western al-Biqa', the Martyr Riyad Taha group has announced that it has carried out a series of operations against the Syrian occupation forces in the area.

UN Mission To Lodge Complaint Against Israel

NC2811070489 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 0530 GMT 28 Nov 89

[Text] The Lebanese Foreign Ministry has requested its permanent delegation to the United Nations lodge an urgent complaint with the UN Security Council against recent Israeli raids on Western al-Biqa' and against the Israeli measures which prevented farmers from Shab'a from returning to their farms, from which they had been deported.

Islamic Resistance Shells Israeli, Lahd Posts

NC2811075989 (Clandestine) Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic to Lebanon 0630 GMT 28 Nov 89

[Text] The Islamic resistance issued the following statement this morning: After monitoring the positions of the Zionist enemy and its Lahdist agents in Taw'amat Niha and Kafr Huna, resistance men discovered reinforcements had entered these posts overnight. At 0553 today, the Islamic resistance artillery carried out a heavy and concentrated bombardment of the Taw'amat Niha position. They scored more than 20 direct hits and inflicted an undetermined number of casualties on the enemy.

The Zionist enemy retaliated by shelling the fringes of Mashgharah and 'Ayn al-Tinah, where the Islamic resistance artillery silenced the fire from all enemy emplacements. The artillery duel lasted until approximately 0620 hours.

SLA Repels Attack, Shells Gunmen's Positions

NC2911075889 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0615 GMT 29 Nov 89

[Text] In the south, the South Lebanese Army [SLA] has repelled an attack against one of its positions in 'Ayn al-Mir. The attack was preceded by concentrated artillery fire.

The SLA is currently shelling the positions of gunmen in central 'Ayn al-Mir, Lib'a, and Marah al-Habs.

New Israeli Military Strongholds Established

NC2911101689 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1000 GMT 29 Nov 89

[Text] According to reports from the occupied border strip, the Israeli occupation forces have established a new long-range artillery position in Marj 'Uyun and have built a helicopter landing strip in the Sham'ah township in western al-Biqa'.

The reports add that the occupation forces have opened a new military road leading to their positions in Tallusah. The new post, which overlooks the area of Hasbayya, has been reinforced by tanks and surrounded by earthen barriers.

Group Claims Responsibility for Tripoli Attack

NC2911084489 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0815 GMT 29 Nov 89

[Text] The 16 January Organization for the Liberation of Tripoli has claimed responsiblity for opening fire at a roadblock manned by Syrian special units along the coastal road of al-Mina'-al-Bahsas. The attack left one Syrian wounded. The organization called on the inhabitants of the free areas not to give in and surrender to the Syrian will and not to fall in the same trap that Tripoli fell into in 1985. The organization stressed that it will provide support for all the Lebanese, as required by its national duty.

Khaddam Meets Lebanese Minister, President's Son

JN2811203589 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1915 GMT 28 Nov 89

[Text] Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam at 1800 this evening received Lebanese Interior Minister Ilyas al-Khazin and Mr Khalil al-Hirawi, son of Lebanese President Ilyas al-Hirawi. Talks centered on the situation in the Lebanese arena in light of the Lebanese national accord march.

Al-Asad, Khaddam Meet With Lebanon's Al-Husayni

JN2711175089 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1615 GMT 27 Nov 89

[Text] President Hafiz al-Asad at 1130 today received Husayn al-Husayni, speaker of the Lebanese Chamber of Deputies. Their talks centered on the situation in Lebanon in light of the national accord and the continuing developments in implementing the al-Ta'if agreement.

Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam also received Husayn al-Husayni. Their talks concerned the situation in Lebanon.

Al-Asad Meets Lebanese Communist Party Leader

JN2811134389 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 28 Nov 89

[Text] President Hafiz al-Asad received at 1000 today Mr George Hawi, secretary general of the Lebanese Conmmunist Party. The talks dealt with the situation in Lebanon.

Defense Minister Meets Soviet Defense Official

JN2811205889 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1915 GMT 28 Nov 89

[Text] Damascus—General Mustafa Talas, deputy commander in chief of the Army and Armed Forces, deputy prime minister, and minister of defense, received at noon today Army General Vitaliy Shabanov, Soviet deputy defense minister for armaments and Supreme Soviet and CPSU Central Committee member. The meeting was attended by comrade Shakir al-Su'ayyid, chairman of the Arab and Foreign Affairs Committee in the People's Assembly, and the Soviet ambassador in Damascus.

During the meeting, they reviewed relations of friendship and cooperation between Syria and the Soviet Union and means of promoting them.

USSR Supreme Soviet Official Masaliyev Visits

Confers With Qaddurah, Talas

JN2811172889 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1615 GMT 28 Nov 89

[Text] Damascus—'Abd-al-Qadir Qaddurah, speaker of the People's Assembly, today received Absamat Masaliyev, member of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, first secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Kirgizia, and member of the CPSU Central Committee, and his accompanying delegation. During the meeting, they discussed overall current issues and positions on them, as well as bilateral relations, especially parliamentary relations.

The People's Assembly speaker highly valued the Soviet Union's firm positions and its support for the just Arab causes, pointing to profound, strong bilateral relations, as well as the need to continue efforts to promote and expand them, especially in the parlimentary area, to exchange visits and expertise, and to cooperate and coordinate on issues of common interest.

Masaliyev then spoke, voicing his happiness and that of his accompanying delegation to visit Syria, pointing to the special and distinguished relations between Syria and the Soviet Union. He stressed his country's support for Syria in its struggle to achieve its liberational goals and build its economic foundation. He also emphasized the Soviet Union's appreciation for Syria's prominent role in solving Middle East issues and its great efforts to deal with the Lebanese issue in the interest of Lebanon's security, independence, and unity. He then spoke about the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium and its new mode of action in light of the restructuring and openness policy.

General Mustafa Talas, deputy commander in chief of the Army and Armed Forces, deputy prime minister, and defense minister, also today received General Absamat Masaliyev, Soviet deputy defense minister for armament affairs, member of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, and first secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Kirgizia [title as received]. The meeting was attended by comrade Shakir S'ayyid, head of the Arab and foreign affairs committee in the People's Assembly; and the Soviet ambassador in Damascus. During the meeting, they reviewed friendship and coopertion relations between Syria and the Soviet Union and ways to promote them.

Meets With Al-Shar'

JN2811200589 Damascus Television Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 28 Nov 89

[Text] Faruq al-Shar', minister of foreign affairs, this evening received Absamat Masaliyev, first secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Kirgizia, and his parliamentary delegation. The meeting was attended by Shakir S'ayyid, head of the Arab and foreign affairs committee in the People's Assembly; and the Soviet ambassador in Damascus. During the meeting, they discussed bilateral relations and ways to promote them in the various areas. They also reviewed the current developments in the international arena and focused on developments in the region.

Visits al-Qunaytirah

JN2911165589 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1530 GMT 29 Nov 89

[Text] Al-Qunaytirah, 29 Nov (SANA)—Absamat Masaliyev, member of the Supreme Soviet, first secretary of the Kirgizia Communist Party, and CPSU Central Committee member, has condemned the savage, intentional, and inhuman destruction of al-Qunaytirah city by the Zionist invaders.

Mr Masaliyev, who visited al-Qunaytirah today along with his accompanying delegation, placed a wreath on the tomb of the unknown soldier. He also planted the Golan Heights Tree in the Friends of al-Qunaytirah City Park.

In another development, Army General Vitaliy Shabanov, deputy Soviet defense minister for armaments and Supreme Soviet and CPSU Central Committee member, who accompanied Mr Masaliyev on his visit to al-Qunaytirah wrote in the visitors' book affirming that the Supreme Soviet in the Soviet Union holds great respect for the courageous Syrian people who fought for their freedom and independence and understands their responsibility in solving the just cause of the Middle East.

In an interview to the SANA correspondent, Masaliyev affirmed the Soviet people's support, with all their potentials, for the just struggle of the Syrian people. He said that there should be an end to acts of destruction and forcing people out of their homes because these are unacceptable in the modern world. Public security, respect for human rights on this earth, and a guarantee for equality should be achieved.

Foreign Minister Receives Arab League's Ibrahimi

JN2711131089 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 27 Nov 89

[Text] Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' this morning received Lakhdar Ibrahimi, Arab League assistant secretary general and envoy of the tripartite Arab committee on Lebanon. Talks concerned the situation in Lebanon and ways of bolstering the march of national accord. Viewpoints were unanimous on the need to extend all possible aid to the new Lebanese president and to the national accord government in order to remove obstacles facing the unity of Lebanon—land, people, and institutions.

Al-Shar' Receives France's Scheer, Message

JN2811214289 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 2125 GMT 28 Nov 89

[Text] this evening Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' received Francois Scheer, secretary general of the French Foreign Ministry and the French Government's envoy. The meeting was attended by Assistant Foreign Minister Yusuf Shakkur, the chief of the West European Desk at the Foreign Ministry, and the French ambassador to Damascus.

Scheer conveyed a message for President Hafiz al-Asad from French President Francois Mitterrand on the situation in Lebanon. The talks during the meeting revolved around ways to remove obstacles to the process of national reconciliation and to restore Lebanon's unity.

Newspaper Says Unity Must Be 'Reinforced'

JN2811094189 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0545 GMT 28 Nov 89

[From the press review]

[Text] AL-THAWRAH says: In its national awakening and in unshakable resolve, Lebanon is taking steady steps on the path of reconciliation, solution, and salvation. It thus is healing the tragedy inflicted on Lebanese citizens everywhere by the assassination of martyr President Rene Mu'awwad. This quickly was translated through the will of reconciliation, national unity, and solution into a confident, serious endeavor to restore legitimacy and lay the foundations for a new bright phase— a phase full of hope in salvation from the long dilemma and in putting an end to the painful tragedies from which the Lebanese people suffered for 15 years.

AL-THAWRAH concludes: The national achievements scored since signing the al-Ta'if agreement, the election of a new president, and the formation of a national unity government must be reinforced. This must be done by removing all obstacles to the progress of reconciliation and solution and Lebanese legitimacy, which is represented by the president and the reconciliation government, supported by Arab unanimity and broad international support, capable of continuing the march of reconciliation and solution, and has the power, ability, and resolve to destroy all obstacles in its way.

Afghanistan

Kabul Airport Closed as Rockets Hit Fuel Depot

BK2911085089 Hong Kong AFP in English 0839 GMT 29 Nov 89

[Text] Kabul, Nov 29 (AFP)—Mujahidin rocket fire hit a fuel storage depot near the runway of Kabul airport Wednesday forcing the closure of the runway and cancellation of at least two flights. There were no immediate reports of casualties.

Witnesses said a fuel storage unit north of the airport, which doubles as a civilian and military facility, was hit by rocket fire at about 9.30 a.m. local time (0500 GMT). It was unclear whether a tanker or an underground storage unit had been hit, but black smoke was seen billowing over the airport for about 20 minutes after the attack, and the road along the north side of the field was put off limits to civilians.

One witness said he had seen a Soviet Ilyushin 76 cargo plane scramble to take off after the missiles hit, and head off the wrong way down the runway. A soldier at the gate said the airport was closed and that one domestic flight and one international flight had been cancelled. The witnesses said a total of five or six rockets had been fired at the airport in the early morning attack, and there were unconfirmed reports of rockets impacting elsewhere in the sprawling city.

Herat Airport Closed After Rockets Hit Tower

BK2911111289 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 29 Nov 89

[Text] The Afghan mujahidin have attacked Herat airport with rockets causing serious damage to the airport control tower and forcing closure of the airport. The Afghan interim government's news agency MIDIA [MEDIA INFORMATION DEPARTMENT OF ISLAMIC AFGHANISTAN] says 14 militiamen of the Kabul regime were killed in the attack. In another attack on Herat, the mujahidin killed 12 Kabul regime military officers and soldiers.

Islamabad Radio Notes Heavy Fighting in Konduz

BK2911022289 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 29 Nov 89

[Text] Reports from Afghanistan say heavy fighting continues between the mujahidin and the Kabul regime forces near Konduz city. According to the news agency of the Afghan interim government, MIDIA [MEDIA INFORMATION DEPARTMENT OF ISLAMIC AFGHANISTAN], the mujahidin damaged 5 tanks and 19 military jeeps of the Kabul regime. According to reports, Kabul forces indiscriminately bombed mujahidin positions in the urban areas of (Zarkheyl Qandan), Sayyad, and (Gardeka), killing dozens of civilians and damaging scores of houses.

Rebel 'Government,' Iranian Groups Hold Talks

BK2611155089 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 26 Nov 89

[Text] Talks between delegations of the Afghan Interim Government [AIG] and the Iran-based mujahidin began in Peshawar today. The AIG news agency, MIDIA [MEDIA INFORMATION DEPARTMENT OF ISLAMIC AFGHANISTAN], says that participation of Iran-based groups in the AIG will be discussed during the talks.

Najibullah Receives Iranian TV Delegation

LD2411123389 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 23 Nov 89

[Text] Esteemed Najibullah, president of Afghanistan, today received Rajab 'Ali Jahanhin and Sa'id Mawlawi, Islamic Republic of Iran television correspondents at Gol Khanah Presidential Palace, and answered their questions. A BIA correspondent reports that the president spoke about the political-military situation in the country, the progress of the national reconciliation policy, the attention paid by the Republic of Afghanistan to the tenets and principles of the sacred religion of Islam, and the multiparty system in the country.

Najibullah Sends Message to Mongolia's Batmonh

LD2711104189 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0506 GMT 26 Nov 89

[Text] Kabul, Nov. 25, BAKHTAR—Najibullah, president of the Republic of Afghanistan has sent a congratulatory message to Ulaanbaatar, addressed to Jambyn Batmonh, general secretary of the Central Committee of the Mongolian People's Revolutionary Party and chairman of the Presidium of the Great People's Hural of the Mongolian People's Republic on the occasion of the 45th founding anniversary of the Mongolian People's Republic.

While expressing best congratulations on the occasion the message stated confidence that the existing friendly relations between the Republic of Afghanistan and Mongolia will be further expanded in the benefits of the peoples of the two countries and cause of peace and security in the region as well as the world.

Likewise, messages on behalf of Sultan 'Ali Keshtmand, chairman of the Executive Committee of the Council of Ministers and 'Abdul Wakil, foreign affairs minister were sent to Ulaanbaatar congratulating the chairman of the Council of Ministers and foreign minister of Mongolia on the occasion.

Bangladesh

Press Note on Opposition Demonstration Issued

BK2811160089 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 28 Nov 89

[Text] A press note issued by the Home Ministry in Dhaka says some unruly people in small processions tried to proceed toward the Secretariat today in response to a sit-in call by some political alliance and parties. Members of the law enforcing agencies asked them verbally not to proceed for the sake of protecting the public and private property and to maintain peace and discipline in the Secretariat and its adjoining areas. The unruly people were obstructed when they tried to proceed defying the order.

At this stage, the unruly elements started throwing bricks, [Molotov] cocktails, and hand bombs at the members of the law enforcing agencies and moved forward from around Curzon Hall, Captain Bazaar, and Gulab Shah Mazar areas. They also set fire to and broke some public and private vehicles, causing heavy damage. The law enforcing agencies were compelled to take lawful action to disperse the unruly mob and protect life and property and to bring the situation under control.

The police arrested 49 persons and brought the situation under control with extreme patience and tolerance. The press note says 17 members of the law enforcing agencies were seriously injured in widespread brickbatting and throwing of [Molotov] cocktails and hand bombs. The injured have been admitted to the Rajabagh police line hospital. Home Minister Mahmudul Hasan went to the hospital this afternoon to see them.

50 Injured, 30 Arrested in Strike

BK2911111189 Hong Kong AFP in English 1055 GMT 29 Nov 89

[Text] Dhaka, Nov 29 (AFP)—At least 50 people were injured and some 30 arrested when activists and police clashed here Wednesday [29 November] during an opposition-called national strike seeking the resignation of President Hussain Mohammad Ershad and fair elections.

Three police vehicles drove directly at a procession of the Awami League (AL) in the capital's Purana Paltan area, injuring 10 people including two prominent AL leaders and six journalists, witnesses said. The two injured leaders, Tofael Ahmed and Mohammad Nasim, later told reporters the attack was unprovoked and claimed it was an attempt by police to run them down. The six journalists were hurt when they were beaten by police in an apparent bid to stop them covering the incident.

A senior police official assured angry Journalist Union leaders that "immediate action" had been ordered against those police involved.

Hundreds of armed police and paramilitary troops patrolled in trucks and were stationed at key points in the capital.

The call for the dawn-to-dusk strike came last week from Sheikh Hasina Wajed's AL, while Begum Khaleda Zia's Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) added its voice Tuesday to protest police action during a demonstration it held in Dhaka.

Begum Zia also called for a half-day stoppage Thursday and announced a month of anti-government campaigns in December.

Other political groups and alliances, including the Freedom Party (FP) and the Communist Party have also joined the opposition strike.

Three employees of the the state-run Bangladesh railway were injured when strikers stoned two slow-moving passenger trains in Dhaka and in northern Mymensingh District, officials here said. Train services in many parts of the country were disrupted due to barricades placed on the tracks by strikers, officials added.

In Motijheel business district security forces clashed with activists who ransacked an office of the Jatiya Jubo Sanghati, the youth front of Mr. Ershad's ruling Jatiya Party. Strikers also set off crude bombs in the streets and damaged several trishaws.

Shops, schools and most businesses were closed and commuters waited for the handful of state-owned BRTC [Bangladesh Road Transport Corporation] buses which moved around the city under armed police escort.

In the Shahbagh area, close to the volatile Dhaka University, student activists squatted on the roads around the campus. Most of them belonged to the AL's student wing, the Bangladesh Chatra League (BCL).

Police moved on to the campus Tuesday when the BCL and a rival student group exchanged fire for over an hour. One activist was also stabbed and was being treated at a nearby hospital, witnesses said.

At Kawran bazaar paramilitary Bangladesh Rifles moved in Wednesday as unidentified picketers set ablaze tires to block a main artery then fled.

The strike was also being enforced in the southern industrial city of Khulna and Chittagong, residents said by telephone. There were no immediate reports of violence from the two towns.

Some 100 activists were arrested and at least 80 injured Tuesday when security forces used rubber bullets, tear gas and batons to prevent them from marching on the government secretariat complex in downtown dhaka.

Thousands of police swung into action against the demonstrators as Begum Zia called for President Ershad to form a neutral caretaker government and call fresh elections by the end of the year.

India

More on Election Results; Government Resigns

Gandhi Submits Resignation

BK2911065289 Hong Kong AFP in English 0647 GMT 29 Nov 89

[Text] New Delhi, Nov 29 (AFP)—Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi, whose party has conceded defeat in last week's general elections, submitted his resignation Wednesday [29 November] to Indian President Ramaswamy Venkataraman, the PRESS TRUST OF INDIA (PTI) said. PTI said the president had accepted his resignation.

Mr. Gandhi arrived at the Rashtrapati Bhavan palace at 11 a.m. (0530 GMT) driving his own Mercedes and held a meeting with the president that lasted 30 minutes, officials said.

The resignation came in the wake of his ruling Congress (I)'s rout in last week's general elections.

Mr. Gandhi had also tendered the resignation of his cabinet, a presidential communique said.

The communique said Mr. Venkataraman had, according to practice, asked Mr. Gandhi and his cabinet colleagues to continue in office until a new council of ministers is appointed.

"The prime minister has accepted the president's request," a palace official told an AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE reporter.

The full text of the brief presidential communique said: "The prime minister has submitted his resignation and that of his council of ministers. "The president has asked him to continue in office until the new council of ministers is appointed."

Gandhi's Cabinet Resigns

BK2911065689 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0635 GMT 29 Nov 89

[Text] Here is a flash. The prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, submitted the resignation of his council of ministers to the president, Mr R. Venkataraman, a short while ago.

Gandhi Wins Seat by 'Huge Margin'

BK2911063689 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0630 GMT 29 Nov 89

[Text] The prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, has won the Amethi Lok Sabha seat in Uttar Pradesh. He defeated his nearest Janata Dal rival, Mr Rajmohan Gandhi, by a huge margin.

Further on Gandhi Win

BK2911080889 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0730 GMT 29 Nov 89

[Text] The prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, has been declared elected from the Amethi Lok Sabha constituency in Uttar Pradesh. He defeated his nearest rival, Mr Rajmohan Gandhi of the Janata Dal, by a margin of 201,372 votes. Mr Rajiv Gandhi polled 270,471 votes, while Mr Rajmohan Gandhi got 69,099 votes. All the remaining 45 candidates forfeited their deposits. They include the president of the Bahujan Samaj Party, Mr Kasi Ram; the candidates of the Hindu Maha Sabha and Doordarshi party; besides 42 independents.

Mr Rajiv Gandhi, who is also the Congress-I president, has been reelected from Amethi constituency for the third time. In 1984 Lok Sabha elections, he had won the seat by defeating his immediate rival, Mrs Menaka Gandhi, by over 314,000 votes. He was elected for the first time from the constituency in a by-election in 1980 caused by the death of his younger brother, Sanjay Gandhi.

V.P. Singh Wins Lok Sabha Seat

BK2911124489 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 29 Nov 89

[Text] The Janata Dal president, Mr V.P. Singh, has won the Fatehpur parliamentary seat by a margin of over 121,000 votes against his nearest Congress-I rival, Mr Hari Krishna Shastri.

Official Results for 499 Seats

BK2911085689 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 29 Nov 89

[Text] Here is the latest overall tally for the Lok Sabha:

Total seats—543;
Elections held—525;
Results Declared—499:
Congress-I—191;
Janata Dal—126;
Bharatiya Janata Party—82;
Communist Party of India-Marxist—32;
All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazagham—11;
Communist Party of India—10;
Shiromani Akali Dal-Mann—6;
Forward Bloc—3;
Revolutionary Socialist Party—4;
Telugu Desam Party—2;
National Conference—3;
Bahujan Samaj Party—3;
Congress-S—1;
Independents and others—25.

Widow of Indira's Assassin Leads

BK2711125789 Hong Kong AFP in English 1143 GMT 27 Nov 89

[Text] New Delhi, Nov 27 (AFP)—The widow of Premier Indira Gandhi's chief assassin established an early lead Monday over her rival from the ruling Congress (I) Party, partial vote-counts showed.

Bimal Khalsa, 35, running for parliament from northern Punjab State's Ropar District, led her rival Raja Singh by more than 8,000 votes after initial counting, the PRESS TRUST OF INDIA (PTI) said.

Mrs. Khalsa is in a nine-cornered contest as a candidate for an extreme faction of the Sikh Akali Dal Party headed by an ex-police officer imprisoned on charges of conspiring in Mrs. Gandhi's assassination. Faction leader Simranjit Singh Mann is also running for parliament, from Punjab's Tarn Taran constituency, directing his campaign from prison.

Mrs. Khalsa has been rated the front-runner in Ropar, where she campaigned on the plank of reviving Sikh dignity which she alleges has been trampled by a callous administration in New Delhi. Sixty per cent of Ropar's million-strong electorate is Sikh and political pundits have predicted a comfortable win for Mrs. Khalsa.

Mrs. Khalsa is the widow of New Delhi Police Subinspector Beant Singh who shot dead Mrs. Gandhi with his service revolver outside her official residence here on October 31, 1984. Commandos shot dead Mr. Beant Singh and wounded his associate, Constable Satwant Singh who was hanged earlier this year along with a third Sikh convicted of conspiracy.

Commentary on 'Mixed' Outcome

BK2811111389 Delhi General Overseas Service in English 1010 GMT 28 Nov 89

[Station commentary entitled: "Analysis of Election Results and Trends"]

[Text] It would be an unacceptable generalization and perhaps a glib one to say that the still emerging Lok Sabha election verdict is a vote for change. Overall, it does seem so, but if one studies the results a little closely, one finds somewhat confusing, even conflicting trends.

The southern states—Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Kerala, and Karnataka—have, for instance, voted overwhelmingly for the Congress-I, which has seemingly been rejected in the northern states. How does one account for that regional variation? In states like Maharashtra again, there is the same confusing mix and no clear verdict, which also calls for study and explanation.

Consider first the six states comprising what is called the Hindi belt—Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Haryana, and Himachal Pradesh. One explanation for what has happened in these states in the Hindi belt is that perhaps, for the first time since election began to be held in independent India, there was in most constituencies a straight contest. This was between the nominee of the Janata Dal or of one of its allies in the National Front or of one of the parties with which the front had electoral adjustment on the one hand and the nominee of the Congress-I on the other. It looks as if this adroit strategy has assisted the Janata Dal and its partners to defeat the Congress-I in these states. It is possible that the Congress-I's share of voting in each of these has remained more or less the same as in previous election, we shall know this only when all the results and all the voting figures are in, but by ensuring that the Congress-I votes remained unlike in earlier elections, the Janata Dal and its partners have emerged triumphant in most. [sentence as heard] Divided and contesting against each other, the opposition parties effectively destroyed each other's chances and in that process assisted the Congress toward victory. This suicidal pattern has been ended by them, possibly for good, and this is what accounts in a large measure for the surprising showing of parties like the Bharatiya Janata Party which has so far won 76 seats, something of a record for it.

It would again be simplistic to attribute the success of the Janata Dal and its partners and the reverses suffered by Congress-I to a canny exploitation of the whole electoral arithmetic. A host of other factors seem also to have helped. Chief of these is the painfully negative campaign of the Congress-I through newspaper advertisements. These advertisements were irredeemably and even morbidly negative to an extent where they put off the average newspaper reader. These advertisements made it seem that perhaps the Congress-I did not think that it had anything positive to project. At any rate, the Janata Dal and its allies have been campaigning relentlessly against the Congress-I for months, utilizing to their advantage every act of omission and and commission of that party and that certainly has had its effect. That campaign surely had its impact on the impressionable minds of new voters in the age group of 18 to 21 who constituted almost a 10th of the total electorate and those votes were bound to influence the outcome.

The performance in the four southern states of Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, and Kerala shows that in Andhra Pradesh Mr Rama Rao was getting to be complacent and autocratic and that this was hardly to the people's liking. A similar explanation is possible for what has happened in Karnataka. In that state it is almost certainly the scandals relating to the time when Mr Hegde was the chief minister. That was the major factor behind Karnataka Janata Dal's very poor showing.

In Tamil Nadu, the total votes polled by the two factions of the AIADMK [All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazagham] and by the Congress-I were together much more than those polled by DMK [Dravida Munnetra Kazagham], and the tie-up has in turn wholly benefited them as was entirely expected. Voters in Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka were disenchanted with the existing regional parties and were looking for an alternative.

To sum up, the Indian voter has proved once again that it has a mind of its own and that it cannot be taken for granted by any party or leader however exalted. The voter would fully exercise the franchise in the way he or she chooses to. Thus, we have the present astonishingly mixed verdict.

Congress-I, National Front To Elect Leaders 29 Nov

BK2811132089 Delhi Doordarshan Television Network in English 1300 GMT 28 Nov 89

[Text] In the post-election scenario, different parties today took stock of the new political realities. Their efforts are likely to take concrete shape tomorrow.

The National Front presidium today constituted a five-member committee to finalize talks with various non-Congress-I parties for enlisting their support.

The Bharatiya Janata Party [BJP] is reported to have discussed the new situation at an informal level.

The newly elected members of the parliament of the Congress-I are meeting in the central hall of parliament at 1100 tomorrow morning to elect their leader.

The National Front members of parliament are also meeting at 1500 tomorrow in the parliament annex for a similar exercise.

UNI [UNITED NEWS OF INDIA] reports that the Communist Party of India and the Communist Party of India-Marxist [CPI-M] are ready to extend outside support to the National Front in the formation of the government. Addressing a press conference, the CPI-M Politburo member, Harkishan Singh Surjit, said that they would not support any non-Congress having BJP participation.

[National Front leader] Mr Vishwanath Pratap Singh met the CPI-M Politburo members Mr Jyoti Basu and Mr H.K. Surjit. Mr Singh also met the CPI-M general secretary, Mr E.M.S. Namboodripad.

Party Spokesman Says Gandhi 'Undisputed' Leader

BK2811144589 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1430 GMT 28 Nov 89

[Text] The Congress-I spokesman told newsmen that his party will not compromise on principles to come to power. He said the Congress-I will respect the verdict of the people. Observing that it is still the single largest party elected, Mr Sharma said that the people of the country have not given a mandate to any party to rule the country in the present elections. He also said that the Congress-I parliamentary party is meeting in New Delhi to elect its leader. The party's working committee is also meeting tomorrow to analyse the post-election scenario.

When asked whether Mr Rajiv Gandhi has offered to step down from the party leadership, Mr Sharma said that such speculations are baseless and Mr Gandhi is still the undisputed leader of the Congress-I.

Meanwhile, a number of Congress-I leaders from the southern region today met the party president, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, and appraised him of the position in the region. They included Mr Virendra Patil, Dr Chenna Reddy, Mr Karunakaran, and Mr Ramamurthy.

CPI-M, BJP Clarify Position on Forming Government

BK2811155789 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 28 Nov 89

[Text] The CPI-M [Communist Party of India-Marxist] leader, Mr Harkrishan Singh Surjit, has said that the left parties have assured full support to the National Front for the formation of a government at the Center. He was speaking to newsmen after a meeting of the left parties coordination committee with the members of the negotiating team of the National Front. He, however, ruled out the possibility of the CPI-M joining the government.

The BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] leader, Mr Murlimanohar Joshi, has said that his party will not support the government which will implement any program contravening his party's manifesto. Briefing newsmen, Mr Joshi said that the decision to support the National Front government will be taken by his party's national executive meeting in New Delhi on Friday [1 December]. Mr Joshi said that his party has been voted, as he put it, to eliminate the dynastic rule and, therefore, the BJP will not have any truck with the Congress-I.

Political Parties Consult To Form Government

BK2911033689 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 29 Nov 89

[Text] Hectic political activities are continuing in the capital with all major political parties intensifying their consultations on the formation of a new government at the center.

The National Front has begun negotiations with the BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] and the left parties to solicit their support. A spokesman of the Front, Mr P. Upendra, told newsmen in New Delhi that a five-member committee will negotiate with other non-Congress-I parties. He said the parliamentary party of the National Front is meeting in New Delhi today to elect its leader. The spokesman also said that the front presidium, which met in New Delhi yesterday, adopted a statement which said that the mandate in this direction is unmistakably a verdict for a change of government at the center.

The left parties have pledged their unconditional support to a National Front government at the Center which will adhere to its manifesto. The decision was conveyed to the National Front committee when its members called on the leftist party leaders in New Delhi last evening. Later, briefing newsmen, a CPI-M [Communist Party of India-Marxist] Politburo member, Mr Harkrishan Singh Surjit, however, ruled out the possibility of the CPI-M joining the government.

The Bharatiya Janata Party has also agreed to extend support to the National Front from outside to form the government. The BJP leader, Mr Atal Behari Vajpayee, told newsmen in New Delhi that his party will have further talks with the Front leaders today.

However, the Congress-I spokesman, Mr Anant Sharma, told newsmen that his party will not compromise with principles to come to power. He said the Congress-I will respect the verdict of the people. Observing that it is still the single largest party elected, Mr Sharma said the people of the country have not given a mandate to any party to rule the country. The Congress-I parliamentary party is meeting in New Delhi this evening to elect its leader. The party's working committee is also meeting today to analyze the post-election scenario. The spokesman said that the prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, will call on the president this morning.

National Front Meeting Postponed

BK2911091489 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 29 Nov 89

[Text] Hectic political activities are on in the capital among the various opposition parties on the formation of a new government at the center, as no single party will get a majority in the ninth Lok Sabha. The National Front has constituted a five-member committee to hold discussions on forming the government with the support of non-Congress-I parties.

The parliamentary party meeting of the National Front scheduled for today has been postponed. According to a spokesman of the front, Mr Upendra, the meeting will take place tomorrow in New Delhi. The front is to elect its leader at the meeting. He said the meeting was postponed as all the election results have not been declared and some of the elected members could not reach Delhi in time.

Janata Dal Leader Interviewed on Election Outcome

BK2711144689 Delhi Doordarshan Television Network in English 1340 GMT 27 Nov 89

[Interview with Janata Dal leader Chandrashekhar by unidentified correspondent; date, place not given—recorded]

[Text] [Correspondent] Janata Dal leader Mr Chandrashekhar has been rather unwell since last night, but he is still on the move, and that is not surprising considering that he has got a lot to do in the next 2 days. Mr Chandrashekhar, do you think you can form the next government?

[Chandrashekhar] We hope so, but I do not know whether it will be so easy.

[Correspondent] But do you think the government that you will form will be a representative government?

[Chandrashekhar] This I cannot say. That will depend upon the character of the government and the people who join it.

[Correspondent] How would you reply to the charge that the Janata Dal today, as it stands, has become a party which represents mainly the Hindi belt states?

[Chandrashekhar] If you go into the results, it is a truth, but if you see the organization and the workers of the Janata Dal, it is still an all India party. But it has not been represented in the south. So, if anybody says that it represents only the Hindi belt, he will not be wrong.

[Correspondent] How would you react to the charge the Janata Dal had gone into an opportunistic alliance with other parties and that it really does not have many things in common with other opposition parties?

[Chandrashekhar] No, it is not true. I do not think that charge is really valid. Because Janata Dal... [changes thought] I think, I personally feel, that there are times in history when one has to face the decision about the removal of a certain regime or a certain person from power, because stagnation in the society cannot be allowed to continue and the present regime is the cause of this stagnation. It was to be removed and that was the primary task of (?politics).

[Correspondent] But if the next government formed by the opposition breaks up like the Janata Party did in 1977?

[Chandrashekhar] It will not harm the nation. It will harm the people who will form the government. It will create some problems for the nation, but the nation will not be harmed by the fall of one government or the other government. The nation will be harmed only if the governments do not prove equal to the aspirations and urges of the people, and they do not address themselves to the problems of the people.

[Correspondent] Are you ready to go and form a government with the support of the BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party]?

[Chandrashekhar] That will depend upon the attitude of the BJP. In politics it is a game of reciprocity. I shall not make any comment on this subject unless and until we have a discussion with the BJP leadership.

[Correspondent] Do you think that there could be problems within an opposition government regarding who the leader could be of the opposition?

[Chandrashekhar] But these problems are not the major problems; these problems can be sorted out. It is not a problem, it is the part of a democratic process.

[Correspondent] Is it true that Mr V.P. Singh has declined to head any opposition government?

[Chadrashekhar] I did not have any contact with Mr V.P. Singh so I am not able to make any comment on it.

[Correspondent] Thank you.

Orissa Chief Minister Resigns After Party Defeat

BK2811162489 Delhi Doordarshan Television Network in English 1600 GMT 28 Nov 89

[Text] The Orissa chief minister, Mr J.B. Patnaik, has resigned. According to UNI [UNITED NEWS OF INDIA], Mr Patnaik handed over his resignation to the Congress-I president, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, owing to the responsibility for the party's performance in the Lok Sabha elections in the state.

The Uttar Pradesh Congress-I president, Mr Balram Singh Yadev, has resigned from his post. According to agency reports, Mr Yadev sent his resignation letter to the party chief, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, following the party's poor performance in the Lok Sabha and assembly elections in the state.

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Resigns 29 Nov

BK2911065589 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0630 GMT 29 Nov 89

[Text] The Uttar Pradesh Chief minister, Mr N.D. Tiwari, has resigned. He submitted the resignation of the council of ministers to the state governor, Mr Mohammad Usman Arif, at Raj Bhavan [governor's residence] in Lucknow this morning. The resignation has been accepted.

Iran

Paper Says UK Must Hand Over Salman Rushdie

LD2911113989 Tehran IRNA in English 0916 GMT 29 Nov 89

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 29, IRNA—A Persian daily Wednesday commented on the recent statement by British Secretary of State Douglas Hurd expressing London's willingness to resume relations with the Islamic Republic of Iran. JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI said in its editorial that if Hurd's move is motivated by Britain's intention to make up for its past mistakes, then it must be welcomed as a positive step.

The morning daily cited steps needed to be taken by London before re-establishment of diplomatic ties with Iran among them apologizing one billion world Muslims for sacrileging the Islamic sanctities through publication of the blasphemous novel "The Satanic Verses".

As a second step, it added, the British Government must express readiness to hand over the Indian-born author of the book, Salman Rushdie and punish the publishers of the blasphemous novel.

Finally, the London Goverrnment must promise that such impudent acts and sacrileging Muslims' sanctities will not be repeated in future, said the editorial.

It added that if Hurd's statement is made with such intentions in mind, then there may be a room for mending the differences. But, if the British Government has other motives, warned the daily, it should remember that Iran has tested London's good intentions and sincerity several times in the past with all resulting in disappointment.

The British Government should know that the world of Islam would never forget the impudence demonstrated by the London government since the publication of the blasphemous book and Muslims' protest against it, reminded the daily. It warned that the Muslim of the world, wherever they are, will preserve their revolutionary wrath against enemies of Islam.

Turkey Criticized for Harassing Iranian Students

LD2911101389 Tehran IRNA in English 0759 GMT 29 Nov 89

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 29, IRNA—The morning daily 'KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL' in its editorial Wednesday expressed the hope that the Islamic Republic would not overlook unacceptable conduct of Turkey vis-a-vis Iranian students and urged the government to take "punitive measures against neighbours who display continued impudence."

Tehran has always demonstrated determination not to change its Islamic attitude towards its neighbours, it said adding "unfortunately some of our neighbours have a tendency to show that they do not always deserve to be treated indulgently." "Turkey is one of them," the paper said.

It said that there may be several factors that are influential in forcing the Turkish statesmen to occasionally exhibit their unfriendly attitude towards the Islamic Republic.

"It may be they do so not to be expelled from NATO... or is it to demonstrate to the EEC member states that Turkey shares their views on Iran?" the editorial speculated.

It said that Ankara is "mistaken" in arresting the Iranian students and treating them as criminals for such motives. "Europeans will never be affected by such tactics notwithstanding, the Muslim nation of Turkey will not tolerate it," it added. "It is incredible that the Turkish Government, now headed by seemingly devoted Muslim, Turget Ozal, can go so far to gain the favor of the foes of Islam—the European states," said the editorial.

"If the Iranian students were physically and psychologically tortured by the Turkish security forces only to show the so-called civilized Europeans that Turks are also a civilized breed, then it will sooner or later find that it has

Tehran Reports on Demonstrations in Turkey

NC2911095589 Tehran International Service in Turkish 1700 GMT 25 Nov 89

[Text] After performing Friday prayers yesterday, hundreds of Muslims in Istanbul demonstrated in support of the use of Islamic attire and demanded the abrogation of the law banning the Islamic veil. According to AFP, the Turkish police attacked the demonstrators and detained at least 50 of them. The demonstration began after the people who attended Friday prayers in the Sultan Ahmet Mosque had performed their prayers and left the mosque. They were joined by university students who chanted slogans against the ban on the Islamic veil in Turkish universities and other schools.

It will be recalled that a recourse was made to the Constitutional Court last January by General Kenan

Evren, who was then president of Turkey, for the abrogation of the law allowing girl students wearing a headdress to attend classes in educational institutions in Turkey. The court abrogated the said law and banned girl students wearing Islamic attire from attending classes.

In another development, the Supreme Educational Council put into effect measures to prevent girl students complying with the requirement to wear Islamic attire from attending educational institutions.

Foreign Ministry on Solidarity With Palestinians

NC2811194889 Tehran International Service in Arabic 1730 GMT 28 Nov 89

[Text] The Foreign Ministry of the Islamic Republic of Iran has issued a statement on the occasion of the international day of solidarity with the Palestinian people. The statement stresses Iran's full support for the Muslim Palestinian people's struggle. It also stresses the readiness of the Islamic Republic of Iran to extend all forms of material and moral support to the great Islamic intifadah in Palestine.

The Foreign Ministry calls on all Islamic states to mobilize their resources to wage a serious and decisive struggle against the Zionist entity and to offer real support to the Muslim Palestinian people.

The statement says panic and fear has begun to grip imperialism and Zionism as a result of the escalation of the Palestinian people's struggle. This has prompted imperialism and Zionism to hatch various plots under the guise of peaceful solutions for the region. The statement stresses that these identical plans aim only at curbing the Islamic jihad of the Palestinian people and perpetuating the illegal existence of the Zionist entity.

Further on Call for Support

LD2911023589 Tehran IRNA in English 1550 GMT 28 Nov 89

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 28, IRNA—The Islamic Republic today reiterated support for the struggle of the Palestinian Muslims against the illicit Zionist regime.

In its statement on the eve of the 'world day for solidarity with the Palestinian people' (November 28), the Foreign Ministry said it was ready to provide 'the great Palestinian movement' with material and spiritual assistance. It also called on Muslim countries to mobilize all their possibilities for an 'effective and practical' struggle against the Zionist usurpers till Palestine is liberated.

'The so-called peace plans are in fact plots with the ultimate aim of deviating the Palestinian struggle,' cautioned the ministry.

The statement denounced the role of reactionary and compromising leaders in this regard, and said the moves taken by those who claim to support the Palestinian struggle 'only serve the imperialist-Zionist conspiracy.' It also exhorted the Palestinian people to resist and continue their decisive struggle to regain their denied rights.

Petroleum Minister Comments on Marun Gas Project

NC2011102589 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 20 Nov 89

[Text] Thanks to the efforts of our petroleum industry workers, the $1 billion project to produce the dry and liquid gas needed by the Iranian petrochemical complex and the Marun project in Ahvaz for the refining of gas for domestic use has been completed and will become operational today. Petroleum Minister Mr Aqazadeh was interviewed by our correspondent:

[Begin recording] [Aqazadeh] In the name of God, the almighty, the merciful. The MGL-800 unit is an major project in which $1 billion was invested. The unit will convert the Ahvaz and Marun gas resources which had been burning for many years into liquids and dry gas. The liquids will be used by the former Iran-Japan petrochemical complex. The output will be 60,000 barrels in the first phase and this can be increased to 120,000 barrels. This fully meets the needs of the Iran-Japan petrochemical complex. This project was completed by our petroleum industry after 1365 [year beginning 21 March 1986] when the foreign contractors left and it becomes operational today.

Economically speaking, this plant will save billions of dollars annually from the liquids and gases which had been burned for many years. Capital was being burned up during the past years. We are pleased to witness the start of operations at the plant today.

Plans for the Marun liquid gas refinery with an output of 40,000 barrels were made in 1364 [year beginning 21 March 1985]. Today we are witnessing the start of operations. This project can take 40,000 barrels of gas liquids daily from the various units and turn 60 percent of it into liquid gas; in other words, up to 25,000 barrels of liquid gas will be produced daily. We take the water, electricity, and steam needed by the refinery from plants around the refinery. Therefore, we have economized on the investment and invested in the refinery's major units. This refinery will play a significant and positive role in meeting the country's liquid gas requirements. When the first Iran- Japan unit becomes operational, we will be among the world's major liquid gas exporters and we have a plan to produce more than 1 million tonnes of liquid gas per year.

[Unidentified correspondent] You stated that the MGL-800 unit will meet the requirements of the former Iran-Japan petrochemical complex. How will the output of this unit be used until the complex becomes operational?

[Aqazadeh] Until the Iran-Japan petrochemical complex becomes operational, the output will be sent to Mahshahr refinery to be split into various products such as liquid gas and other products. Part of these products will be exported and part used domestically. [end recording]

Views Supply, Transport Problems

LD2411232289 Tehran Television Service in Persian 1600 GMT 24 Nov 89

[Text] Following the shortages of liquid gas in some parts of the country, Mr Aqazadeh, the oil minister, in an interview with our corresondent, provided some explanations about this matter. The oil minister said:

[Begin Aqazadeh recording] In fact, we do not have any shortages in the production of liquid gas in the country; we should even be able to export gas within the next few months. However, the only reason which led to the shortages was the issue of transportation. In the country the issue of transportation faces major problems, and these problems are not confined to the field of natural gas; we even have difficulties in the field of the transportation of fuel.

Fortunately, this year with the production of the refineries we are in a very good position regarding fuel and liquid gas. However, in some areas where the delivery of gas through pipeline is not possible, we are faced with some difficulties in transportation; that is, with tires, spare parts, and even shortages of trucks. At the moment, we are faced with a shortage of the means to transpor these items. Fortunately, however, with the orders that have recently been issued by the president, we hope that in the near future this problem will be solved. Another issue concerning natural gas that I should explain is that you certainly know we are in charge of the production of natural gas. Its distribution is in the hands of various companies; they certainly have some difficulties or shortages in their sphere of responsibility, and these problems should be solved through helping them. [end recording]

Editorial Suggests OPEC Reduce Gulf Tension

NC2711161589 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 22 Nov 89 p 2

[Editorial: "OPEC as a Launching Pad"]

[Text] The International Conference on the Persian Gulf which has commenced in Tehran on November 20 is still going on. Some 400 experts from Iran and abroad are attending the forum, which will conclude today.

The conference has a politico-academic nature bringing together politicians upto the rank of cabinet ministers from Iran, United Arab Emirates, Amman [as published], etc. and academicians from a variety of nations.

Aside from what is on the gathering's agenda, the conference has also provided ample opportunity for a study of related issues for those observing the developments in this highly sensitive part of the world.

Following the 1979 Islamic Revolution in Iran and the shoot up in oil prices, the Persian Gulf's name made media rounds in the four corners of the globe as never before. People everywhere followed Persian Gulf-related news with keen interest.

The significance attached to the Persian Gulf began to dwindle when the waters were rendered unsafe for international shipping in mid 80s in the wake of Iraqi invasion of Iran in 1980. The bottleneck created in the Persian Gulf as a result of the war prodded regional governments to think of ways other than this maritime route for the exportation of their oil.

The new backdoors opened for oil exports coupled with the reduction in oil prices and the ensuing oil glut in the international market took some points off from the significance the Persian Gulf once enjoyed.

These developments however, are political realities rather than a thorough loss of the total significance of this strategically important water-way. But cashing in on these factors, some Western media have been, as recently observed, attempting to draw a smokescreen over this still quite important maritime area of the region. The Persian Gulf may not be as vital as it once was to the world economy but it is certainly far from being ignored or done away with in geopolitical considerations.

Oil, mainly due to some political rather than economic designs, has been divested to some extent of its true value in the world scene. But this does not necessarily mean that the situation will remain unchanged in the years to come.

The Persian Gulf hosts some 60 percent of the world's oil reserves and is, with no reservation, the most strategically important maritime passage between and among Asia, Europe and Africa. It is a linchpin to the connection system joining the Mediterranean, the Red Sea and the Indian Ocean.

Oil however is the backbone to the political significance of the region and the littoral states. To revive the signifiance of oil regional nations must top their foreign policy with efforts to reduce tension among themselves.

And the best and the most important way to achieve this passes through OPEC.

Industries Minister Returns From Vienna

NC2611083889 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 26 Nov 89

[Text] Mr Ne'matzadeh, Iranian minister of industries, who went to Vienna at the head of a delegation to attend the third general session of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization [UNIDO] conference, returned to Tehran this morning. He spoke to our correspondent on the outcome of his trip:

[Begin Ne' matzadeh recording] The UNIDO conference, which is in fact the United Nation's conference on industrial development, was established in 1966 and became an independent organization in 1986.

The Iranian delegation actively participated in this conference. The session's agenda included numerous topics: The election of the board of directors and a new director general; environmental issues; assistance to underdeveloped and developing countries, particularly countries in Africa and Latin America; aid to the Palestinians, Namibia, and freedom-seeking nations and the people of South Africa.

Financial issues were also discussed which included the heavy debt of the Third World and finding new vistas for financial assistance to boost the industries of these countries.

The Iranian delegation actively participated in the session and in the subcommittee sessions. In my speech, I clearly conveyed the position of the Islamic Republic of Iran to all the participants from the 153 countries attending. We officially protested the presence of the usurping Jerusalem regime and our statement was read aloud during the session and documented.

Fortunately, as a result of our colleagues' efforts and the discussions we held with some of the delegates, Iran was elected as a member of the board of directors for the first time. A few weeks ago, we had been elected to head the group of Asian countries. Our colleagues convened these sessions actively and the Islamic Republic of Iran's position was presented. Fortunately, most of what we proposed was approved.

We also announced the Islamic Republic of Iran's readiness, and the readiness of our industries ministries and our industries, to provide assistance for the expansion of the industries of lesser developed countries, particularly those in Africa. God willing, we will formulate specific programs for this purpose so that we will be able to embark on the plan for the development of the African countries in the next decade, which was also one of the topics discussed during the conference.

Ayatollah Yazdi Arrives in Khorramabad

NC2811083989 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0330 GMT 28 Nov 89

[Text] Ayatollah Yazdi, head of the Judiciary, arrived in Khorramabad this morning on a visit to Lorestan Province. He was welcomed by the Friday imam, the governor general, and judiciary officials of the province.

The Central News Unit reports that the purpose of this visit is to meet with the people and the officials of the judiciary branch in Lorestan Province as well as to study the judiciary problems of the province.

Justice Minister Shushtari, officials of the Judiciary, and Lorestan deputies in the Majles are accompanying the head of the Judiciary on his visit.

Paper on Eliasson Mission, 'Plot' in Lebanon

NC2711221589 Tehran JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI in Persian 23 Nov 89 pp 1, 10

[From the "Weekly Political Analysis"]

[Excerpts] Special UN emissary Jan Eliasson has concluded his visits to Iran and Iraq. He heard the views of the two sides during his Tehran-Baghdad shuttle and conveyed each side's views to the other side.

These visits confirmed the already established fact that, if left to its own devices, the Baghdad regime seeks to prolong the no war no peace situation; this is the actual objective of all its clamor about peace.

The Baghdad regime's policy now is to stall for time and to continue to do so. The reason for this is clear: If Resolution 598 is to implemented to the letter, naturally this will be to the detriment of the "criminal of the imposed war" and his associates ruling Iraq.

The Baghdad regime cannot explain why it committed all the atrocities and genocide and was responsible for such devastation and bestiality nor what the lord of the Qadisiyah [Iraqi President Saddam Husayn] gained by all this brutality.

This is a question which the Baghdad regime cannot answer and so it continues its delaying tactics to gain time and divert attention from such questions.

In fact, during his Tehran-Baghdad shuttle, Eliasson realized this very point as could have been expected. Now the United Nations and the Security Council are faced with an inevitable question: What should they do in view of Iraq's obstructionism?

The Security Council should take a very definite position in this regard and openly declare that the Baghdad regime is responsible for preventing progress in the peace talks and should exert pressure on Baghdad to admit the truth; otherwise, the Iraqi Ba'thist regime will continue its policy of hedging and stalling for time.

The West Behind the Events in Lebanon

Lebanon was the scene of dramatic events this past week. On the one hand, there is the belligerence of Michel 'Awn, the puppet of the Western oppressive forces which, after years of crime and genocide, seem to have reached the end of the road as neither the Muslims nor the Christian faction in Lebanon accepts them and are gradually forging their own paths.

On the other hand, there is the West's overt and covert efforts to increase its interference in all aspects of Lebanon's political life. The people of this country have now fully realized the lack of goodwill on the part of the world's oppressive forces.

The suspicious explosion which killed Rene Mu'awwad and his companions once again riveted world attention on Lebanon. This incident cannot be viewed and analyzed without taking into account the historical root of recent events in Lebanon and all their concomitant complications. The fact that Rene Mu'awwad and Michel 'Awn were chosen and endorsed by the same source cannot be denied. Why is it that 'Awn is assigned to make militant noises and even to threaten the Christian faction with murder, while Rene Mu'awwad is killed as soon as he assumes the post of president? [passage omitted]

This is a question the people of Lebanon and the world are unable to answer. One fundamental point is clear here and that is that the West is behind the developments in Lebanon and is only thinking of its own interests. Therefore, we must ask ourselves what new Satanic plot the West is hatching for intervention against the people of Lebanon. [passage omitted]

KEYHAN Commentary on Iran-Iraq Stalemate

*NC2611061489 Tehran KEYHAN in Persian
18 Nov 89 p 18*

[Majid Reza'iyan commentary: "The Levers of Pressure in the Continuation of the Iran-Iraq Dispute"]

[Excerpts] The valuable utterances of His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i, the great leader of the Islamic revolution, especially with regard to the enfeebled and unprincipled approach of the Red Cross toward the issue of the release of prisoners of war, is evidence of the extent of the repression inflicted on our resistant and infidel-battling nation. [passage omitted].

In order to seek the roots of such a repressive, unjust, and unprincipled attitude on the part of such organizations one should look elsewhere. If the Westerners have one spy in Iran they will send members of such organizations to Tehran on various excuses and pretexts in order to gauge the extent of adherence to the norms of human rights! If Iranian prisoners of war, however, are incarcerated, it appears that these organizations have not yet realized that these are also human beings. The most rudimentary step in this regard—that is, the registration of their names—has not taken place.

The fact is that the Iran-Iraq dispute was not merely a bilateral conflict. The overt support of international powers right from the start revealed many behind-the-scenes activities. [passage omitted].

UN Security Council Resolution 598 has clearly stated and endorsed the withdrawal of the enemy's forces to internationally recognized borders. However, in a way, it may be said that the resolution seems to be beyond the control of even the Security Council. It was issued at a time when Iranian forces had entered al-Faw, Shalamcheh, and areas in northern Iraq, and had gone into Iraq in order to douse the flames of its warmongering.

Obviously, the formulation of the resolution at that time referred to the issue of withdrawal prior to the release of prisoners of war; that is, indirectly it implied the return of Iranian forces from Iraq. However, following Iran's acceptance of the resolution, Iraq is now occupying Iranian territory without any reason and it does not see any benefit in the implementation of this clause or even of any other international protocols.

Therefore, in view of the political losses it will sustain by the withdrawal of its forces, it is deliberately raising the issue of prisoners of war, along with the psychological and political dimensions and implications so that first, the secretary general's work may be obstructed and blocked and second, public opinion may be incited and antagonized against Iran for its opposition to the release of the prisoners of war.

Since the West has also not resolved its various outstanding issues with Iran and is seeking concessions, it also welcomes this state of affairs in the hope that it will be able to exert political and psychological pressure on Iran's political and military echelons. [passage omitted]

Thus the International Red Cross and the Iraqi regime should take steps to activate the mechanism of a simultaneous exchange of prisoners of war with a withdrawal of Iraqi forces from our territory—in the form of a plan proposed by the secretary general—within the framework of a definite timetable so that it may be said that all this propagandistic clamor had a ring of truth.

What is certain, however, is that the exchange of prisoners of war as proposed by Jan Eliasson is not possible by itself because in his words, the various parts of the resolution are "an integral connected whole, which cannot be separated." Therefore, the release of prisoners of war and the withdrawal should take place simultaneously, or as specified in Resolution 598; otherwise, the West and the Iraqi regime will maintain their attitude toward Iran and will have to be answerable for the concomitant obstructions.

Majles Supports Promotion of Gulf Ties

*LD2711034489 Tehran IRNA in English 1700 GMT
26 Nov 89*

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 26, IRNA—The Foreign Policy Committee of the Majles Sunday called for expansion of friendly relations with member countries of the (Persian) Gulf Cooperation Council.

The committee met to discuss the Persian Gulf events and the latest developments regarding the Islamic Republic's relations with regional countries. It also voiced support for the position adopted by President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani in his remarks made at the closing session of a three-day international conference on the Persian Gulf this week.

In his speech, President Hashemi-Rafsanjani placed emphasis on promotion of good neighbourly relations with the regional countries.

TEHRAN TIMES Criticizes USSR-Iraq Accord

NC2711161189 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES International Weekly Edition in English 23 Nov 89 p 2

[Editorial: "Moscow's Deal With Baghdad Will Not Serve Peace"]

[Text] Moscow and Baghdad are about to strike a huge multi-billion dollar deal. The pact, according to diplomatic sources will, perhaps, include a large project to build a gas pipeline to give Iraq access to central Europe's market.

The agreement reported to surpass six billion dollars in value was negotiated in the Iraqi capital over a ten-day visit by a Soviet delegation headed by Deputy Head of the Economic Commission of the Soviet Council of Ministers Abel Aganbegyan.

This economic agreement should be seen against a backdrop of uncertainty and the new round of tension brought about in the region because of Iraq's sabotage of the U.N.-sponsored cease-fire Resolution 598 with Iran.

Iraqi claim of sovereignty over the Arvand River waterway and its intransigent positions over illogical preconditions for the implementation of the Revolution 598 has sunk the region into deeper uncertainty and insecurity. The Soviet's signing of such a crucial agreement with Baghdad right amidst such doubtful situation reveals its lack of concern about peace and calm in this part of the world.

The agreement is not going to serve peace for sure. In fact, judging from the nonchalant approach of the five permanent members of the Security Council, it can be said, regrettably though, that none of these world powers seem to have a sincere interst in establishing real peace.

Iran, therefore, has always expected naturally from Moscow to make more diligent efforts to help bring peace to the region. Unfortunately, Moscow has not only failed to come up to these decent expectations, but has, indeed, adopted policies that will only prove a stumbling block to peace, to say the least.

The deal has come at a time when the Iraqi Foreign minister Tariq 'Aziz has dismissed outright the legitimacy of the Algiers Accord (signed with Iran in 1975) recently. The quite unexpected statement by the Iraqi official has only helped unleash a new wave of cold war between Tehran and Baghdad.

Against this background the wisdom of Moscow's deal with Baghdad falls under a serious question. It can be interpreted as a Soviet's indifference toward prospects of peace.

Moreover, it can be taken as a move to politically and economically boost a bankrupt regime housed on a very shaky political and economic ground.

The agreement will most likely be finalized during Saddam Husayn's Moscow tour in near future.

As the things stand, it is but natural for Tehran to take such dealings on the part of Moscow into, consideration as it might affect politico-economic relations with the USSR in the long run.

JOMHURI-YE ISLAMI on Afghan Situation

NC2411161589 Tehran JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI in Persian 15 Nov 89 pp 1, 9

[Editorial: "The Roots of the Current Ills"]

[Text] The people of Afghanistan have been through difficult and eventful days. However, many are the decisionmaking days that still lie ahead of them. The Islamic resistance forces in Afghanistan, which shouldered the heavy burden of the breathtaking struggle against the Soviet occupation army and the puppet regime of Kabul, have lived through momentous events. But they would be making a mistake to take their fingers off the triggers and think that the need for readiness and alertness has decreased.

In the days when the fate of the breathtaking struggle of the Afghan people and the popular forces did not seem very decisive, few claimed a part or tried to gain a major part in the events. It was the people who shouldered the heavy burden of the struggle with all its difficulties and problems. But this was not the case once victory was felt; and this is the source of the combatant Afghan nation's big problem today.

At the peak of the savage bombings of residential areas in Afghanistan by the aggressive Red Army and Kabul's Marxist regime, there were many who did not extend practical support to the people of Afghanistan. There were also those who did not take the trouble to extend effective support to the breathtaking struggle of the Afghan nation, were mere spectators in the horrific massacres of the Afghan people, and only watched while this Islamic country were wallowing in blood and dirt. These parties were tempted to enter the scene of Afghanistan once they began to see that the Afghan people's struggle was so serious that it could not lead to defeat.

The roots of Afghanistan's ills today and tomorrow should be sought here, because it was from this point that the ground was paved for the basic distraction of some of Afghanistan's guerrilla groups which, in selling themselves, sold the fruit of the Afghan nation's struggles in the process.

America and Saudi Arabia entered the scene from one front, but with differing motives, and they strove to gain a role in Afghanistan's problems. American arms and Saudi petrodollars misled some Afghan groups which started to move in their direction, seeing only the "bait" and not the "trap!"

Gradually, the activities of these groups came to depend on "conditional assistance" and these groups' dependence on this conditional assistance increased as events progressed. The trend of events was such that everyone saw victory to be theirs. But the dependent groups were not allowed to continue the path and inflict the last blows.

Thus, even though the conditional assistance was offered to make the road to victory shorter, in fact it only delayed matters. This was the same point that the Islamic Republic stated openly from that very moment, warning of the consequences that the distraction of some Afghan groups would have, specifically after the meeting between some of the heads of the Afghan resistance and Reagan. Today it is a bitter fact that all those forecasts have either come true on a vaster scale or are in the process of coming true.

Logically, it was and is unbelievable that the Al Sa'ud regime would, on the one hand, invest in the confrontation against the world movement of Islam and, on the other, simultaneously enter the scene in all sincerity in order to ensure the victory of that very same movement in Afghanistan. It is a source of regret that some Afghan groups have not been able nor have wanted to understand this reality and have been misled. From the very start, it was clear that the Al Sa'ud regime was not and is not interested in serving the Afghan nation sincerely. From the very start it was clear that the Al Sa'ud regime could not be a reliable mentor for the Afghan nation.

But why has the Al Sa'ud regime invested in the Afghanistan affair, and why does it continue to do so? The answer is clear: Washington is seeking a reliable foothold in Afghanistan and it needs immense investments in order to achieve this goal. Naturally, it sees it as to its advantage if these immense investments come out of the deep pockets of the Al Sa'ud regime.

Facts and realities are very clear and speak of the bitter aftertaste of the conditional assistance from the Al Sa'ud regime and America. The Afghan groups should think about how the combatant groups were led into a confrontation instead of toward harmony and unity. It is a very alarming fact that conditional assistance led to the fulfillment of this objective and the thwarting of Afghanistan's Islamic movement. The purpose of this was to dampen the Afghan people's zeal in their struggle and to pave the way toward the installation of another puppet regime, this time by Washington.

The Afghan people, and especially the Afghan mujahidin groups, should be able to understand this apparently complicated but basically simple issue and be able to act decisively on the basis of a correct assessment. If not, then Washington will, with investments by hirelings such as the Al Sa'ud, continue its efforts to gain a foothold in Afghanistan. It is certain that none of the martyrs of the bloody fight against the occupiers and none of the people of Afghanistan sought to oust an aggressor from their country only to pave the way for the entry of another aggressor.

Iran-PRC Joint Economic Commission Meets

LD2711214789 Tehran IRNA in English 1532 GMT 27 Nov 89

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 27, IRNA—The fifth Tehran-Beijing joint economic commission started here today with Chinese Minister Foreign Economic Relations Zheng Tuobin and Iranian Minister of Economic and Financial Affairs Mohsen Nurbakhsh in attendance.

Nurbakhsh, describing economic relations with China as 'positive' noted that the volume of bilateral trade exchanges has been on the rise over the past few years. The two countries, he added, have taken significant strides in technical and industrial cooperation. Iran has concluded agreements with China on construction of dams and power plants a well as cooperation in agriculture and peaceful exploitation of nuclear technology. Nurbakhsh said that the current difficulties between the two sides regarding barter exchange would be removed as of next year.

The Chinese minister predicted a bright future for bilateral ties, expressing hope for the success of the joint economic commission. Zheng, pointing to the steady increase in trade with the Islamic Republic, called it 'a sign of bilateral friendly relations.' In 1988, he noted, the volume of mutual trade exchanges increased by 164 million dlrs, a 150 per cent rise as compared to pre-Islamic revolution figures.

The session today decided to form four committees to study various grounds of cooperation, and to draft a letter of understanding to be signed at the end of the fifth joint commission meet.

Tehran Radio Details Navy Day Ceremonies

LD2811162189 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 28 Nov 89

[Excerpts] Our next news report is about the ceremonies organized in the 1st Marine Zone of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran (IRI) to mark Navy Day. I draw your attention to this news report:

On the occasion of 28 November, Navy Day, ceremonies were held in the 1st Marine Zone of the IRI's Armed Forces in Bandar-e 'Abbas. During these ceremonies, the brave fighters of the Navy fleet in the Persian Gulf and the Gulf of Oman, accompanied by other military and security personnel of Hormozgan Province paid tribute to Navy martyrs and announced their full readiness to maintain security of the Persian Gulf and defend the waters of the Islamic homeland. According to a Central News Unit report, in these ceremonies, after the special flag-hoisting ceremonies, the representative of supreme jurisconsutl [vali-ye faqih] in Hormozgan Province and the Friday imam of Bandar-e 'Abbas, Hojjat ol-Eslam Ahmadi, referring to Navy Day, honored the memory of the personnel of the frigate "Peykan." He said: These dear ones responded to the call of His Holiness Imam Khomeyni, may God be satisfied with his deeds, and by donating their blood defended the holy sanctity of Islam, the Islamic Republic, and security of the Persian Gulf waters. [passage omitted]

On the basis of the same Central News Unit report, on this occasion, three warships of the 2d Marine Zone in Bushehr docked at Bandar-e Imam Khomeyni yesterday afternoon, escorted by helicopters of the sea-air defense unit, which were flying above these warships. This report stated this was the first time following 8 years of the holy defense that these warships arrived in Bandar-e Imam Khomeyni and were welcomed by the military and security commanders of the region and the local officials who attended the military ceremonies.

Soccer Event Aimed at 'Belittling' Revolution

NC2411112289 Tehran JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI in Persian 16 Nov 89 p 2

[Unattributed commentary entitled "The So-Called Peace and Friendship Cup: An Attempt To Belittle the Revolution"]

[Text] In view of the region's current situation, the so-called Peace and Friendship Cup games were more political than athletic in nature.

This series of games, which was organized by the Kuwaiti Government, was attended by the national soccer teams of our country, Iraq, two African countries, and three Middle Eastern countries.

The first noteworthy point of the games is the name it was given: peace and friendship. It is not a secret to anyone that Iran and Iraq were in the minds of those who chose this name. Moreover, this comes at a time when, despite Iran's goodwill and our officials' cooperation with the UN secretary general toward the rapid establishment of peace and security in the region, the Iraqi Government is refraining from the full implementation of UN Resolution 598, continuing its occupation of a vast area of our territory, and trying to postpone its implementation on various childish pretexts.

Under such conditions, the holding of such games, which is a type of request for peace and friendship between two belligerent parties, means that Iran should refrain from its national and international rights to the benefit of the other side. The Persian Gulf Cooperation Council, of which Kuwait is also a member, stated—in tandem with the games—that Iran's Arvand River belongs to Iraq. This reality shows that Kuwait's intentions behind organizing these games were not good and that it continues to work toward Saddam's objectives.

The other noteworthy point of these games is the teams that participated and the incidents that took place while the games were in progress. The teams in this series of games were chosen in such a way as to facilitate the victory of the Iraqi team with the defeat of the Guinean national team by a weak team such as that of Yemen. Following this, Iraq was able to advance. This indicates a premeditated plan aimed at ensuring Iraq's superiority in this series of games and at belittling Iran's Islamic revolution.

Definitely, it is naive to expect an enemy to become a friend. The people expect officials and decisionmakers to adopt a more alert approach to matters. The question is: Why should we fall into the trap of arrogance so easily and allow the enemies of pure Muhammadan Islam and the opponents of our auspicious Islamic revolution to play with us in this way?

Surely we are a proud nation that has gained the greatest prestige under the aegis of Islam and of the Islamic revolution, and with the dignity of Islam we have broken the dignity of the Western superpower and trampled on its flag. Undoubtedly, such a nation will not be belittled by losing a soccer game which was the fruit of collusion by the enemies of the revolution. But the question is: Why do our sports officials give arrogance and the enemies of the revolution such opportunities?

Letter to Editor on TV Coverage

NC2411173689 Tehran JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI in Persian 18 Nov 89 p 2

[Letter by A.T. to editor of JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI entitled: "A Snake Up Our Sleeve"]

[Excerpts] It would not be inappropriate if I reminded you who wield the pen at JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI that the attention you paid to the issue of the so-called Peace and Friendship Cup in Kuwait was commendable but that you also seem to have overlooked certain nuances in the matter.

One of these was that the radio and television and certain publications ignored some very important occasions in the month of Aban [23 October-21 November]. Meanwhile there was a sudden burst of coverage, like the blowing up of a balloon, given to sports, attracting immense attention so that no one would realize that more important issues were overlooked in the month of Aban.

Let us return to the past few days and refer to the archives of the Voice and Vision and the publications and answer these questions:

What percentage of the media's coverage was devoted to important issues in the month of Aban and what percentage was allotted to sports?

The important events that took place in this month are:

The occupation of the den of spies that the imam termed a second revolution greater than the first, students day, and the anniversary of the exile of the imam—may his soul be sanctified.

In the light of the above events, the month of Aban is an eventful one and if we wish to keep the memory of our revolution alive then we should do so by celebrating these events.

Do you think that the celebration of Health Day on 12 Aban [3 November] with all the fanfare on the part of the "Greetings! Good Morning" feature was merely a coincidence?

Do you think that the convocation of the tournaments of the so-called Peace and Friendship Cup, with its concomitant disgrace, in the month of Aban was incidental? Do you really think that all the "joyful footwork" on the part of the radio and television for this puppet show staged by the Kuwaiti shaykhs was merely by chance? One would have to be very foolish to believe all of the above was incidental and to take it very lightly.

What I wish to state is that not only did they commit an act of tyranny against the month of Aban and the important revolutionary events in the month but they also sinned against sports. For over a century sports has been a prisoner in the hands of the colonialists and it was expected that at least in Islamic Iran sports would not be shackled by the game of politics and should not be used as a means of diverting the people's attention and keeping them occupied. [passage omitted]

My main point is that I wish to bring to the attention of the officials of the Voice and Vision that such acts are committed only by the snakes that we have in the grass! You, who are the officials of the media and are dedicated to the revolution, should be vigilant against those who gain your confidence by thousands of artifices and acts of subterfuge and pursue their objectives in a subtle manner, for when you awaken to their tactics, there will be nothing left of the revolution's values. God forbid that such a day should dawn. I hope you become wise to these stratagems and preserve your revolutionary values. [passage omitted]

PTT Minister on Expansion of Telephone Networks

NC1711182689 Tehran ETTELA'AT in Persian 8 Nov 89 p 2

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] Post, Telegraph, and Telephone [PTT] Minister Engineer Gharazi reviewed his ministry's past performance and future plans in an exclusive interview with our correspondent. He said: In the first 5-year plan, the government will provide more that 1.5 million telephone connections to subscribers all over the country. One million of these will be of the progressive digital type, of which we hope to have 4.5 million by the end of the plan period.

The PTT minister added: More than 10,000 rural telecommunications offices will be set up in villages, and 82,500 channels will be added to the national and international telecommunications network.

Engineer Gharazi continued: We will intensify our application of the latest technology in the next 5-year plan and we hope to set up a factory to manufacture digital switches. The production of fiber optics and the use of satellites has also been envisioned in the ministry's program under the 5-year plan. The PTT minister added: New services, such as paging and facsimile systems, will also be expanded under the 5-year plan. He added: The network of computerized telephone exchanges will be equipped with tele-telex facilities, computerized city terminals, and the replacement of multi-telex telegraph systems by equipping the telegraph networks with the latest teletype facilities such as tele-conference and video-telex which are envisaged in the ministry's program under the 5-year plan. [passage omitted]

Expansion of Fiber Optics Network in the Country:

Regarding the use of fiber optics, Engineer Gharazi said: The fiber optics project has been envisaged in two separate stages for urban and remote areas under the long-term program of the Iranian telecommunications company as follows:

The use of fiber optics has been envisaged for use between city trunk centers after 1989 and the first phase is being implemented. In future years all trunk centers will utilize the fiber optics system. The distance between Tehran and Karaj is 50 km and this system will serve 12,000 channels. In the next phase this will be expanded to Qazvin. [passage omitted]

Allotment of Telephone Connections in Tehran and Bigger Cities:

Regarding the allotment of telephone connections to applicants in Tehran and the other big cities, the PTT minister said: Of 700,000 applications dating back to the prerevolution era, 650,000 have been granted. [passage omitted]

Expansion of Intercity and International Telecommunications Channels:

On the subject of the expansion of intercity and international telecommunications channels, Engineer Gharazi said: A total of 24,980 long-distance channels were linked in 1988. The ultimate capacity of the coaxial cables for Tehran-Esfahan is 7,200 telephone channels and a system of 140 megabytes per second will be added to the Tehran-Karaj fiber optic cables which will increase the number of channels to 27,590 by March 1990. In this way a six-stage project which had been suspended due to delay in setting up the pylons will be completed.

He added: In the past few days large intercity exchanges in the provinces of Gilan and Kohkiluyeh va Boyer Ahmad became operational. This has opened up immense possibilities for intercity communications. Engineer Gharazi said: The expansion of the intercity network in Tehran, which is under way, will we hope become operational duringa the 10 Days of Dawn celebrations [1-11 February] and satisfy the demands of the people to a great extent.

Statistics Department Head on Population Growth

NC2111065889 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0330 GMT 21 Nov 89

[Interview with Statistics Center Director Jamshidi by unidientified correspondent; date, place not given—recorded]

[Text] [Jamshidi] We are assuming that 1 year after the acceptance of Resolution 598, there has been an increase in the number of births and in the country's population compared with 1365 [year beginning 21 March 1986] when the population and housing census determined that the net population growth rate was 3.2 percent.

[Correspondent] What is the population now?

[Jamshidi] A 3.2 percent growth rate would give the country a current population of around 54.5 million. However, if we accept the fact that a baby boom [preceding two words in English] takes place after a war and calculate on the basis of natural growth, then the population should be greater than this.

Of these 54.5 million, it is likely that some 29.5 million are living in approximately 500 cities. The remainder, 25 million, are living in villages. In other words, the gap between the urban and rural populations is widening sharply. There are now about 4.5 million more people in urban areas than in rural areas. We will see continue to see this phenomenon of greater growth in the urban population than in the rural population.

In addition to natural growth, the rural population also faces the problem of migration, which puts heavy pressure on our urban population.

In places like Tehran, which always had uncontrolled population growth, the population is now increasing and is about 6.7 million at night. Between 500,000 and 700,000 people commute to the Tehran megapolis. Therefore, the daytime population can reach between 7.2 and 7.3 million.

At any rate, we have determined that the growth rate in Tehran is around 3.5 percent, especially in view of migration. This is approximate and may increase. Tehran has become a megapolis around which many satellite cities have sprung up and so its growth can be better calculated by also considering the growth of its adjacent cities. If we take the surrounding cities, in addition to Tehran's 20 municipalities, into consideration, this growth rate may reach about 4 percent or a little more. This is a very high population growth rate in view of Tehran's current capacities and will create many problems.

Economic Council To Offer Stock Market Shares

NC2811090889 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 28 Nov 89

[Text] In accordance with the decisions adopted by the Economic Council during its meeting yesterday, shares of production units that come under the umbrella of mechanized agricultural units and agro-industrial companies are to be offered on the Tehran stock market soon.

The Central News Unit reports that during yesterday meeting of the Economic Council chaired by President Hashemi-Rafsanjani, a comprehensive report by the Central Bank of the Islamic Republic of Iran on the modus operandi, objectives, and activities of the stock market since its inception was studied.

The necessary decision was then adopted on the continuation of the policies of improving the country's economic structure and of further activating the stock market. It was decided that state and public organizations should strive to offer more shares on the stock market in the units affiliated with them. By ensuring, as soon as possible, that these companies conform to conditions that are accepted on the stock market, they should create the possibilities for the acceptance of as many companies as possible on the stock market, and agree that shares in agro-industrial companies and mechanized agricultural units be offered on the stock market.

The Economic Council proposed that the role of the votes of small shareholders in nationalized companies be determined, and that the necessary proposed reforms in taxation, commerce, accounting, and law regulations be handed to the cabinet to be given to the Majles so that transactions in the stock market may increase.

Commentary Assails 'Bottlenecks' in Production

NC2611122589 Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 18 Nov 89 p 18

[Mohammadreza Heydarzadeh commentary: "Mr Minister: Production Is Under the Scourge of Bureaucratic Regulations"]

[Text] In his address to a gathering of employees at the aluminum factory in Arak, the mines and metals minister called on the press to review and focus on the problems and bottlenecks in path of "production " in order to increase the country's production capacity and economic pace.

It is the first time a minister has asked the press for assistance in solving a problem which for years has been the cause of backwardness and has made the people and the country vulnerable to inflation and high prices.

One of the most important objectives of the government today is to increase production in factories to meet society's needs. Impeding this process is a chain of obstacles in the path of production and every link in this chain can be found in an organization or department which acts as a deterrent to action. We have repeatedly written about the problems of production and the difficulties in this area, but due to lack of support on the part of the officials, the proper feedback could not be obtained.

Now that the mines and metals minister has expressed the wish that correspondents air these difficulties in the press, we have also declared our willingness to hear about the difficulties in production and to review and reflect upon them.

Mr Minister, you should know that these problems have their roots in our departmental structure and in the laws and regulations about when the government should act directly.

The obstacles—the way to fix prices, rules governing imports and purchase, work and labor laws, the modus operandi for obtaining foreign exchange, customs laws, and the system of middlemen and brokerage and... [ellipses as published]—which play a key role in thwarting economic plans. [sentence as published]

Listening to the woes of the producers has at least one advantage for you: You will realize where and how the links in this chain of obstacles exist, and in what organization or department that daily afflicts lawful and unlawful production with this scourge and weaken it further in the economic field until one production unit has to wait for more than a year to buy one part for its production line.

Mr Minister, the country's production units, in which billions of rials and dollars have been invested, do not need love. They depend on a drastic shattering of a major barrier of indifference and narrowmindedness inflicted on them with the concomitant burden of inflation and high prices.

Therefore, in such an arena all employees should be mobilized so that new life can be infused in production and society can flourish....

Commentary on Success of Anti-Drug Operation

NC2211100389 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0454 GMT 22 Nov 89

[Commentary prepared by the Central News Unit's research group]

[Text] In the name of God. In our country's continuing fight against drugs during the third phase of the "Val-'Adiyat" operation which was launched 10 years ago, more than 12,000 drug addicts have been arrested by the Islamic Revolution Committee.

The third phase of the "Val-'Adiyat" operation started on 11 November throughout the country with the aim of identifying addicts and speedily arresting the main elements involved in the manufacturing and distribution of drugs. One thousand stationary and mobile bases have been set up throughout the cities, villages, and towns to speed up the arrest of violators and enable society to rid itself of those people involved in the drug trade.

During the third phase of the "Val-'Adiyat" operation alone, some 2,000 kg of various types of drugs have been found. The drug enforcement staff has always tried to build on the lessons of past experiences in the various phases of its fight against smugglers and addicts. It has always sought the assistance of the people in identifying criminals. During the third phase of the "Val-'Adiyat" operation, 11 networks involved in drug manufacturing and distribution in the country were disbanded. The forces of the Islamic Revolution Committees in border areas and deserts have now started general mopping-up operations. According to recent reports, an extensive network was identified and disbanded in Kavir-e Lut.

The borders and the eastern and desert areas of the country have always played a vital role in our struggle against drugs because these areas have been used by the smugglers' armed and well-equipped caravans. With the precise identification of the roots of drug smuggling and the operations that have been compiled, all officials have concluded, however, that the sources of drug smuggling can be found on the borders and in the desert areas inside the country. The establishment of stationary and mobile bases in the heart of the desert and deep inside our borders has enabled the drug enforcement staff to carry out a series of coordinated operations in years to block the entry of drugs and insurgents and to enable our Islamic society to be cleansed of such ills.

Meanwhile, the need for exchanging views and for cooperation in controlling borders is extremely effective. The Islamic Republic of Iran is now holding talks with the Pakistani Government on border cooperation so that through the two countries' efforts, the fight against veteran smugglers and insurgents who have created problems for both countries can be facilitated.

At any rate, the officials in charge of drug enforcement have gained significant experience in their 2-year struggle against drugs. In the past 2 years, the legal problems concerning the punishment of smugglers were solved and the executive capabilities of the forces of the Islamic Revolution Committees were strengthened.

An important question is how to continue the struggle and to keep alive the collective spirit of fighting against drugs. A fundamental approach and a study of the past phases of the "Val-'Adiyat" operations can improve the implementation of the future phases of the "Val-'Adiyat" operations and lead to greater successes. In implementing future operations, it is important to focus on the smuggling aspect; the drug enforcement staff insists on this point. On this basis, the fight against smuggling should be a persistent and fundamental struggle which must continue decisively. In recent years we have seen how some citizens of neighboring countries have played a major role in drug smuggling, and it is said that they are responsible for a large part of this. Thus, the officials of the drug enforcement staff should clearly define the approach that should be adopted toward such people.

* Report on Proceedings of 2 Nov Majles Session

90OI0043A Tehran RESALAT in Persian
2 Nov 89 p 5

[Text] Legal and Majles Bureau:

Yesterday morning the Majles held its open session presided by Hojjat ol-Eslam Karrubi. In this session, after recitation of some verses from the Holy Koran, Messrs. Mozaffarinejad, the deputy from Tehran; Danesh, the deputy from Masjed-e Soleyman; Movahedi-Savoji, the deputy from Saveh; and Kabiri, the deputy from Marvdasht were the pre-agenda speakers. Then, the deputies' memos to the country's executive officials were read and the Majles was called to order.

According to RESALAT's parliamentary correspondent, the first item on the agenda was the continued investigation of a legal plan to preserve memorials commemorating Imam Khomeyni, which was ratified by the deputies.

The second item on the agenda was the plan to intensify confronting the terrorist activities of the U.S. Government, which was ratified.

The last item on the agenda was the selection of two deputies as observers to participate in the meetings regarding Subarticle 3 of Article 2 of the National Budget Law for the year 1368 [21 March 89-20 March 90]. Messrs Davudi-Shamsi and Harati were selected.

The text of the pre-agenda speeches, the deputies' memos, and details of the discussions is as follows:

Ali Movahedi-Savoji, Representative of the People of Saveh

The first pre-agenda speaker was Mr Movahedi-Savoji from Saveh constituency. He praised the holy spirits of the martyrs and the late leader of the revolution, Imam Khomeyni. He also congratulated the people on the occasion of the anniversary of the imam's exile to Turkey, Student's Day, and the anniversary of the takeover of the den of spies by the children of Islam.

In connection with the issue of America, the deputy said: I believe that from the outset of the victory of the revolution, the revolutionary and Muslim people of Iran, under the leadership of the imam and now his worthy son His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i, have taken a defensive posture before the enemies of Islam and especially, the arrogance of the West, led by America. They have signed this letter in order to lead the world public opinion to believe that the Islamic Republic of Iran has an offensive posture or, God forbid, is inclined to interfere in other lands and undermine the sovereign rights of other nations.

Mr Movahedi pointed to the takeover of the den of spies and said: The Muslim people of Iran and the leaders of the Islamic revolution have not and will never be radicals and extremists. After the victory of the revolution and the overthrow of the American lackey (the treacherous shah), the dear people of Iran—who for decades were under the foul and cowardly political, economic, military, and cultural domination of America—realized that America, the world-monger, still does not leave the Iranian people alone and has turned its embassy in Iran into a den of conspiracies, plots, and spying against the Islamic revolution. In defense of the revolution, its sovereign rights, and independence, they rose against this conspiracy and took over this den. Publication of the very useful documents that were found in this spy-house proved the conspiracies of the enemies of Islam and showed that the Iranian nation had just defended itself against these conspiracies.

The representative of the people of Saveh added: The double-urgency plan, the double urgency motion of which was ratified by the deputies and—God willing—the plan itself will be ratified today, is in fact in opposition to the anti-human, aggression of America against international law. It gives the Iranian people the right to stand up to any aggressor and any oppressor in defense of their nation anywhere in the world.

It was on this basis that I thought it necessary to point out that all nations of the world, especially Muslims, should know that the Muslim nation of Iran, in accordance with the rule of Islam, the Koran, and the revolution, will not forfeit any of its rights or give up any of its interests.

Jahanshah Danesh, Representative of the People of Masjed-e Soleyman

The second pre-agenda speaker was Mr Jahanshah Danesh, who in his speech said: Mr Bush, in regard to the treacheries of the great Satan, our imam told us everything. The evil whose latest move has broken the bounds of humanity and has laid to waste the spirit of love for mankind in Europe. I beg of the people of Europe to laugh for a minute at this world policy of the United States.

He added: Thanks to the exalted and far-sighted leader of the revolution for the appointment of the brave brother Commodore 'Ali Shamkhani, who was the last commander to leave al-Faw, as a result of a lack of accurate coordination among the forces, and showed that he is truly from Shamkhani extraction.

With regard to his constituency, Mr Danesh pointed out: In Masjed-e Soleyman and its dependencies, deprivation is rampant. The poor people of this region are much more hopeful now after the visit of the president, His Excellency Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani. I hope that, as a result of his orders, strong moves will take place in that region. Most of the resources of the cities organizations have been destroyed as a result of 31 ground-to-ground missiles that struck the city during the 8 years of war. The patient people of Masjed-e Soleyman witnessed the time when this city served the country well and its oil was running the economy of the country. If this city—an industrial city with reserves of gas, oil, cement, and several dams on the Karun River—can rise above its present problems, due to the high standards of its technical forces in the vocational fields, it can contribute to the country's economic expansion.

He added: I beg brother Engineer Foruzesh for his attention to the water project for four deprived villages of the Andeka region. Also, I appreciate and congratulate him, the revolutionary masses, and the country for the appointment of the great brother Dr 'Ali Qanbari-Babahmadi, the true son of the tribe and capable manager, in this position of great responsibility.

He also asked the minister of housing and urban development to expedite the implementation of plans for the urban land preparation for Masjed-e Soleyman.

He also pointed out the unhealthy atmosphere in the organizational structure of Khuzestan Governorate and the management of Mr Mir-Damadi, and said: I ask Haji Nuri, the respected interior minister, to order an investigation of the prevailing situation in the provincial government.

In conclusion, the representative of the people of Masjed-e Soleyman gave some notices to the executive officials of the country.

The third pr-agenda speaker was Mr Mozaffarinejad, the representative of the people of Tehran in the Majles. In the beginning of his speech commemorating 13 Aban [4 November], he said: With the takeover of the den of corruption and doom on this day, the people of Iran and the downtrodden of the world realized their strength. Also, this fact became evident that America's animosity with the Islam and the Islamic revolution is of a permanent and unchanging character. The presence of America in any shape and with any excuse is the presence of conspiracy, treachery, terror, kidnaping, fear, looting, destruction of national identity and ideology, and giving power to the liberals and Western-oriented individuals. With the takeover of the den of spies on 13 Aban and the crash of the provisional government, the genuineness and capability of the Islamic revolution and the Hezbollah nation, in the path of victory and permanence, was revealed and proven.

The speaker then thanked His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i for the appointment of Mr Shamkhani as the commander of the Islamic Republic of Iran's Navy and said: The government must use such appointments as a model for selection of managers in ministries and organizations. They must trust the children of the revolution, those who have been raised in the bloody cradle of the revolution and have passed through stages of struggle before the revolution, who were steadfast during the imposed war and stood up to America and its lackeys. Let it be known that if the management scene is rid of fighters, martyrs, POW's, MIA's, the wounded, and those who have passed through the revolutionary training inside the revolution, then on that day America will once again covet us.

With regard to relations with America, the representative of the people of Tehran said: In Americanized Islam, the face of the great Satan suddenly changes and it appears to have a godly face. It is hastily interjected that the golden opportunity to have ties with the Satan has come. There are even religious decrees from the American source that "relations with America, if useful, is a religious duty"; and also, that it is not important who takes the first step. What man in his right mind and with a clear conscience can accept that the connection of the wolf with the lamb can be good and that the lamb should take the first step; also those who from the perspective of behavior in American Islam, bravely prescribe establishing relations with the Al Sa'ud family [Saudi Arabia] at a time when 16 of our dear brothers and innocent Kuwaiti pilgrims are beheaded with golden swords? They do not even consider for once, the word of the imam: "Even if we excused Saddam Husayn or all those who wronged us, we cannot pass over the Hejaz issue." They do not see that the walls of the holy mosque colored red and do not hear the cries of the martyr-giving mothers and the bloodied self-sacrificers who sit next to the family of the Prophet Abu-Talib and like their master Husayn, the grandson of the prophet, cry about injustices.

How are those who, once in a while, talk about such connections, going to answer to these bloods and families?

Mr Mozaffari added: There is no doubt that healthy sport is achieved when supervised, at present or in the past, by honest and pious coaches. It is also certain that it guarantees the productivity and happiness of society. We hope that responsible officials and the Voice and Vision [radio and television organization] mark another day after the 13 Aban as the National Health Day and make sure that the days before the 13 Aban are focused on, with calculated propaganda, as the National Day To Combat World Arrogance, and America is at the top of the list. I ask of the enthusiastic and athletic youth that, besides taking strong steps in sports and other endeavors, to remember this slogan, which is also the cause of good health and prosperity: "America! America! Shame on your deceit; the blood of our youth drips from your hands in various fronts, in Lebanon, and innocent Palestine." At this time, I ask that the Voice and Vision broadcast the full text of the resolution passed by the Majles. The full text of the resolution is as follows: "The 13 Aban is the national day for struggle against the world arrogance, lead by America." Most emphasis is on the last part of the resolution.

Mr Mozaffari declared: I remind the respected deputies that the Majles, after the jurisprudence, is the highest, strongest and the most decisive center of power and it is others, in any other position, who should obey the Majles. It was the decisiveness of Majles that frustrated England, that old hyena, during the ordeal of Salman Rushdi, the atheist, and thus gave our foreign policy a new prestige. Also, the resolutions of last year and this year, around 13 Aban, discredited America and showed the world the ugly face of America in the frame of resolutions of Majles and people backed by the cries of God is great. Yes. In what majles in today's world you can find 200 deputies who pass similar resolutions against American kidnaping? Here is where the grandeur of the imam's words comes to light: The center of all consultations and laws is the Majles and the Majles is on top of all affairs.

With regard to growth in production, the representative of the people of Tehran said: It must be noted for all those involved in production that first, they must be motivated; otherwise, so long as producers have no motivation there will be no growth in production. These people are workers, farmers, and other professionals. Motivation for only owners will never result in fundamental changes in production because owners of a shop are one or a few, whereas the number of workers can be as high as thousands. The most important issue in this regard is the passing of the Labor Law by the Majles. Now that the respected Council of Guardians has voted down this bill for the second time, we ask the Council of Evaluation to try hard to pass this bill so that the masses of hard-working workers—who made many sacrifices during the glorious Islamic revolution and the imposed war by fighting in the two fronts of work and war—can achieve their Islamic and human rights.

The fourth and last pre-agenda speaker was Mr Ahmad Kabiri, representative of the people of Marvdasht. He congratulated the people on the occasion of the anniversary of 13 Aban as the focal point of the struggles of the fighting people of Iran against the great Satan and said: At the outset of the national day for the struggle against arrogance and America, the great Satan, and at a time when Yankees wildly cry for tearing apart innocent nations and show their claws and fangs and empower their police to kidnap and assassinate their opponents all over the world, it is appropriate that once more, all revolutionary children of the imam and the barefoot and downtrodden, who have been hurt by the arrogance, to renew their pledge to continue on the path of that exalted leader who was the flagbearer of the struggle of good against evil. This is the time to continue their everlasting and continuous struggle against the criminal America under the leadership of His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i and thus disappoint those who are waiting for the resumption of ties with America and who even resort to religious decrees.

He added: God willing, the Majles will decisively ratify the law to intensify fighting against the terrorist activities of the American Government and once more to deal a great blow to bloodsucking Western imperialism and show that although the imam is not among us any longer, his path and his revolutionary children are still alive.

He then addressed the Voice and Vision Organization and said: It is indeed pitiful and ironic that in these last few days, instead of concentrating on an important issue such as the national day of struggle against arrogance, the main discussion of the day has repeatedly been Health Day and the broadcast of the Iran-Yeman soccer match. Little attention has been paid to this national day of struggle against arrogance and the death to America. God willing they will make up for this in the remaining days.

Mr Kabiri then mentioned the following points in view of the present situation in the country:

1. America and its ever-ready servants, meaning the Al Sa'ud family, must know that the al-Ta'if conspiracy cannot resolve their difficulties and the struggle of the Muslim and nationalist forces of Lebanon will continue to eradicate the tribal system and finish off the Maronite rule. Our nation will back the innocent people of Lebanon in this struggle with all its might.

2. Our foreign policy officials must not allow America and Saudi Arabia to gain an initiative in the sensitive Middle East region and decide the fate of the region. The reactionary rulers of the Al Sa'ud family—after derailing the struggles of the innocent nation of Afghanistan and setting up a provisional government without the participation of the eight-member coalition of the mujahidin—once more, in accordance with the wishes and orders of their master, America, have interfered in the Lebanese situation by setting up the miserable conference at al-Ta'if to strengthen the Maronite rule over the Muslim majority of Lebanon. Saudi Arabia's intensification of activities regarding the problems of Afghanistan and Lebanon, while the innocent people of both countries look to us as their last hope, and in view of our influence among Muslim nations, can be a result of our diplomatic weakness and planning deficiencies in our foreign policy.

3. The struggle against world arrogance and the criminal America must not be a mere slogan or a political perspective. In conjunction with political struggles, we should muster all our might to achieve cultural and economic independence. Our people must note that, in addition to the morale of jihad and martyr-seeking, hard work and increased production along with lower expectations and consumption are important elements for our victory in this life and death struggle.

In this regard, he noted : Our great nation, in adherence to the dear Islam and to safeguard the dear memories of the imam, considers hard work and struggle as an important duty and a form of prayer which avoids sluggishness. No doubt, the most valuable source for expansion and advance for every country and every nation is its manpower. Nowadays, regretfully, sluggishness can be seen in all aspects and sectors. The out of control service sector which is the source of high incomes from brokering, acting as go-betweens, hoarding, and high prices have been added to other reasons. Regretfully, a large group of the productive forces of the society have been absorbed into fictitious jobs and trading matters. Thus, every day more is added to the problem of high prices and the present sluggishness, and the culture of hard work and production is being replaced with the culture of brokering, cheating, and tricks.

He added: Improving the economic situation of the country requires fundamental planning and persistence in implementation of the programs and laws and decisive action in dealing with wrong-doers. Issues and economic problems cannot be solved by declaration of general issues from public podiums. The experiences of the past 10 years have shown that no plan or program can reach the desired results without confronting the economic terrorists. It is surprising that when a minor narcotics smuggler is dealt with to the extent of execution, there has been no serious confrontation with those who loot the rights of the people and not even one person responsible for hoarding and selling at high prices has been sent to the gallows. Is the danger of a hoarder less than a drug smuggler? At the present time, the danger of hoarders who suck the blood of the nation is no less than that of America and foreign enemies. As a matter of fact, it is always the internal elements that lay the foundation for the conspiracies of a foreign power.

With regard to economic terrorists, he gave an example and said: All of our people have, through the media, become familiar with the events involving the Nabovat Foundation. All have seen that how a professional swindler, by taking advantage of the most sacred beliefs of the people, launched an attack to destroy the economy of the country and through this gathered considerable and easy wealth. However, although the executive of this foundation has been twice sentenced to execution, nothing has been done. Such instances encourages other wrong-doers to be more bold.

The speaker added: In studying the country's economic difficulties, some think the high prices and inflation are a result of lower production. In fact, the issue of potatoes showed that the spiraling price of many goods and services is not necessarily due to lower production. What was the decrease in this year's production of potatoes compared with last year that as soon as it was mentioned by the respected president during the Friday prayers sermons potatoes became so scarce? Regretfully, as a result of weak confrontation of such people, the dignity of the regime has become blurred. Hasty announcement of issues, without proper implementation of declared programs has resulted in increased boldness of hoarders and profiteers without any fear of prosecution for their ghastly acts.

He also pointed out: Declaration of government policies and abandoning them at the outset is a clear example of such factional and ineffective dealings which result in nothing but increased pressure on the consumers and an ever-increasing burden on the market.

The speaker then talked about the implementation of Principle 49 of the Constitution and the need for the judicial branch to fulfill its responsibility in all areas and especially in recovery of people's rights and belongings from the grip of looters and said: According to the reports of the experts, studies show that 40 percent of the people own 100 percent of the wealth. Another 40 percent of the people of this group own 22 percent of this wealth. The top 20 percent of the society owns 74.85 percent of the wealth of the society. If we study the last 20 percent we see that the first 10 percent own 11.68 percent and the second 10 percent owns 63 percent of the wealth of the society. The interesting point is that 1 percent of the latter 10 percent own 21 percent of this wealth. It means that the wealth of 1 percent of the people is equal to the wealth of 72 percent of the people; in other words, for every rich person who is in the top 1 percent, on the average, their wealth is 285 times those in the first group, or the first 40 percent.

Then the representative of the people of Marvdasht made some comments to the executive officials of the country.

The Letter Signed by Over 164 Deputies on the Appointment of the New Commander of the Navy

The exalted leader of the Islamic revolution and commander in chief, His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i:

We thank God that, in order to implement the spirit of brotherhood and cooperation between two pillars of the revolution—namely, the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic and the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps—you have taken a great step and appointed the committed and brave brother Mr 'Ali Shamkhani, after promoting him to the rank of commodore, as the chief of Navy of the Islamic Republic Armed Forces. The brave personnel of the Navy—who during 8 years of holy defense bravely faced multi-national forces headed by the world-monger America and defended the widespread and sensitive coastal frontiers of our country—are proud to have been the focus of the special attention of the commander in chief with this appointment. They thank you by demonstrating cooperation and coordination and obedience towards the new commander.

We, the deputies of the Majles, thank you for your proper choice and wish success for our dear brother Commodore 'Ali Shamkhani in quantitative and qualitative promotion of the naval forces of the Islamic Republic, the guardians of our waterways. In conclusion, we thank Commodore Malekzadegan who during his tenure as the commander of this force and wish him all the best.

The Letter of Over 138 Deputies Praising Collegiate Wrestlers

With this letter we pay tribute to the heroic athletes of the Islamic Republic of Iran, and especially to our country's young wrestlers who achieved the second place in the world in recent matches in Mongolia. We wish all athletes of the Islamic Republic maintain revolutionary values in all school arenas and raise the glorious flag of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Details of the Discussions

The first item on the agenda was continuation of the study of a report by the Islamic Guidance and Art Commission about the legal plan for the preservation of memorials dedicated to the memory of His Eminence Imam Khomeyni.

Article 4. The Ministries of Culture, Islamic Guidance, and Interior are duty-bound to present complete plans for review and approval by the Cabinet—through cooperation and coordination with the said institution—for naming centers, circles, and important streets across the country after Imam Khomeyni; also, paintings, creating artistic and visual art objects to demonstrate the goals and objectives of the imam, and installing them in public places and large circles.

Article 5. Bank-e Markazi of the Islamic Republic of Iran is dutybound to arrange for suitable designs of pictures of the great leader of the Islamic revolution, Imam Khomeyni, to appear on all paper bills and the Bahar-e Azadi coins.

Articles 4 and 5 were put to vote and ratified.

The Second Agenda Item

The second item on the agenda was putting forward the double-urgency plan for confronting the terrorist activities of the American Government.

Article 1: In order to confront the American Government, the president is dutybound to act for the arrest and punishment of Americans and their direct or indirect agents who have been convicted in Iranian courts.
Note 1. All countries who, directly or indirectly, assist and cooperate with America in matters that endanger the lives of Iranian nationals or attempt to kidnap them are subject to the execution of Article 1.
Note 2. American agents or nationals and countries who cooperate with America and participate in the kidnappings or the conspiracies against the lives of Iranian nationals and against the interests of the Islamic Republic of Iran will be tried by the courts inside Iran and in accordance with Islamic pineal code.
Note 3. This law shall remain valid and enforcable from the time of its passing so long as the president of America has the right to order inhuman acts against the lives and interests of Iranian nationals and does not act to nullify the official decrees to this effect.

Article 1 and its notes were put to a vote and ratified by the deputies.

The Last Agenda Item

The last item on the agenda was the selection of two deputies to participate in the sessions regarding Subarticle 3 of Article 2 from the national budget law for the year 1368 [21 March 89-20 March 90] which, as a result, Messrs Davudi-Shamsi and Harati were elected.

The Majles will hold its next open session on Sunday morning.

KEYHAN Reports on 7 Nov Majles Session

PM2411162689 Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 7 Nov 89 p 2

[KEYHAN reports on the 7 November open session of the Majles]

[Excerpts] An open session of the Majles was held this morning headed by speaker Hojjat ol-Eslam Mehdi Karrubi. [passage omitted]

Mehdi Mehdizadeh, the deputy from Gonabad was the first pre-agenda speaker at today's Majles session. He talked about the 4 November anniversary and said the people's anti-aggression struggles will increase year by year. He added: One must pay attention that the struggle against aggressors is not limited to demonstrations on 4 November. We must fight every minute against aggression in the cultural, economic, political and military fields. We must unite and become stronger and we must reach self-sufficiency in various economic areas. We must not be fooled by the propaganda of the aggressors and must be aware of the enemies' plots. We must arm ourselves with the weapons of piety and knowledge.

The deputy from Gonabad then spoke of this week which has been named "education week," and said: Growth in the country is not possible other than by training adequate personnel. This is why the issue of educating and training personnel has to have a special place in our plans. Without paying attention to scientific research, no country can ever advance. This is why universities and research centers, which are considered to be the main provider of educated manpower, should be considered as special. [passage omitted]

Mehdi-Zadeh then talked about the issue of giving piped natural gas to the areas of southern Khorasan Province and said: The southern part of Khorasan Province has a population of more than 1.3 million people. Despite the fact that the huge sources of natural gas are only several kilometers away, these people do not have this luxury.

This issue was mentioned during the president's trip to the province, and he conveyed the views of the provincial officials to the authorities at the Ministry of Petroleum. But there has been nothing forthcoming from the Petroleum Ministry—either positive or negative. It is also surprising that the issue of giving piped gas to this area has not been mentioned in the 5-year-plan.

Keeping in mind that the growth of southern Khorasan depends on the gas pipeline, I am once again making this request from the respected president and the Ministry of Petroleum.

Mehdi-Zadeh continued: The efforts and hard work of our brother Jalil Besharati from the office that deals with poor areas resulted in the assembly of a special commission to look into ways to enrich southern Khorasan. This commission met on 3 July 1989. Important decisions were reached during this meeting to prevent the destruction of southern Khorasan. I am now asking the president to issue an order to make this commission permanent and to execute the decisions reached during the July meeting.

The Gonabad deputy then talked about the project to provide a television transmitter for the Gonabad area. He said: I have been following this issue since 1984 and despite the fact that I have written dozens of letters and requests no-one seems to want to answer my two questions which are:

1. Why has a national project whose finances have been arranged for 3 years, which has progressed by 26 percent, been stopped?
2. What do the people of the area have to do in order to get decent reception on their radio and television sets?

I hope the officials at the radio and television give some convincing answers instead of mentioning irrelevent issues.

The second pre-agenda speaker at today's Majles session was Qorban 'Ali Saleh-'Abadi the deputy from Mashhad. He asked the government, the president and the Majles Budget and Planning Commission to give special importance to basic plans for Khorasan Province including the establishment of a steel plant and a petrochemical plant as well as the project for a mold-making factory in Asfarayen, and to place these projects within the government's 5-year-plan.

Saleh-'Abadi then talked about the drinking water situation in Mashhad and said the water quality is not very high. He hoped that this problem would also be solved as part of the 5-year-plan.

He then added: As universities have a special importance in all countries, including our own, we have to do our best to provide everything they need, including adequate eating and sleeping quarters. I do not want to say it is proper for students to go and take over dormitories. It is never acceptable to have people taking over an area without any legal basis, but you must understand that these students have nowhere to sleep at night. One must be patient and listen to what the students have to say, to solve their problems.

Mohammad Taqi Ranjbar, the deputy from Some'eh-Sara was the last pre-agenda speaker at today's Majles session. He commented on the widespread demonstrations held by the people on 4 November against the United States and said: The truth is that the government must come forth with a complete plan to solve the people's economic and social problems. The government must let the people have a share in solving the society's problems and must avoid political games. The government must not be scared of noises made by old and bankrupt politicians. It must rely on God and remove the obstacles one by one.

The brave people of Iran blame today's problems on those who are dissatisfied with the current political situation. These elements sit in various sessions and regard the government's actions during the past few months as worrying. They fool their listeners by telling them that they are very anti-American and very revolutionary. The judicial power must deal very sternly with those who make society insecure, who cause tension and chaos.

Our dedicated Muslim students who fought in the most difficult conditions against the world-engulfing United States and its lackey, the Ba'thist enemy, in cold weather, in hot, and under the savage bombardment of the enemy, will no doubt allow the government enough time to build them sleeping quarters. Those who take over buildings in order to have somewhere to sleep, who do so without meaning any harm, must know that there are some people supporting them in their actions who want to do nothing other than to weaken the government and to create insecurity. I have no doubt that in this mass action some hypocrites [Mojahedin-e Khalq Organization] enter the scene with political motivations to take advantage of the situation. I would like to ask the Ministry of Information to do some serious investigation into the recent takeover of a mobilization crusade building which caused concern among officials.

He added: The reason for our economic stagnation is not the war but rather the idea that everything has to be nationalized, closing all roads to sensible investment by the public. No one has paid too much attention to what the imam was essentially saying. As far as they themselves were concerned, of course they had to be put in charge of factories, workshops, and organizations. Are they the followers of pure Islam and followers of the imam's line?

The false supporters of the poor live in palaces in luxury. They sleep at night alongside capitalists and the next morning they come and give slogans against those same capitalists. They live in the posh areas north of the town and look down upon the poor areas in the south.

Ranjbar concluded his comments by congratulating the new governor general of Gilan Province on his new appointment. [passage omitted]

Pakistan

'No-Confidence Motion' Against Bhutto Proposed

BK2811143489 Delhi Doordarshan Television Network in Hindi 1415 GMT 28 Nov 89

[Text] Opposition parties in Pakistan have decided to jointly propose a no-confidence motion against Ms Benazir Bhutto. It is believed this was decided yesterday at a meeting of all the leaders of opposition parties in Lahore. Meanwhile, the National Assembly is scheduled to meet again next Saturday [2 December]. President Mr

Ghulam Ishaq Khan will address a joint session of the National Assembly and the Senate [on 2 December].

Two Soviet POW's Depart Islamabad for Home

BK2811120489 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 28 Nov 89

[Text] The two Soviet prisoners of war [POW's] released by the Afghan Islamic interim government left Islamabad this afternoon for home along with the seven-member Soviet delegation of the People's Committee for Release of Soviet POW's. Talking to newsmen briefly, the two prisoners of war, Mr Andrei Lopukh and Mr Prokopchup ,said that they were looked after properly. The mothers of the two prisoners said they are thankful to the government of Pakistan.

Air Force Officer on Kahuta Security, Exercises

BK2711014689 Hong Kong AFP in English 2301 GMT 26 Nov 89

[Text] Islamabad, Nov 27 (AFP)—Pakistan has beefed up security at a key nuclear facility to safeguard it from external threats, a top official said here.

Air defences have been "sufficiently strengthened" around the Kahuta plant near here, said Air Vice Marshal Baharul Haq on Sunday [26 November].

He said though Pakistan and its traditional rival India had agreed not to attack each other's nuclear installations, "the Air Force was alert around the clock to check any intruder." The Kahuta nuclear facility holds a uranium enrichment plant.

He also briefed reporters on Air Force exercises due to start next month in conjunction with the Army's large-scale "Zarb-e Momin" [Impact of Muslims] wargames. He said the exercise would demonstrate the capacities of Pakistan's recently acquired Chinese-made F-7/P aircraft.

The official ASSOCIATED PRESS OF PAKISTAN (APP) quoted him as saying that Pakistan had aquired 40 such planes out of a total of 100 to be supplied by China over a three-year period.

He said Pakistan was not threatened from the west but that "due to peculiar nature of the border we have combat air patrols to check incidents of air violations from the Kabul regime aircraft."

He said 2,215 sorties were made in 1987 to check such violations. During 1986-89 nine intruding Afghan government planes were shot down by the Pakistan Air Force, he added.

From 1984 to 1989, he said, Kabul regime planes violated Pakistan's air space 1,635 times, killing 327 people and wounding 721.

Between 1985-1989 eight Kabul pilots defected to Pakistan with their aircraft, including two helicopters. Pakistan still kept the aircraft, he said.

He said Pakistan's Air Force would "never catch up" with India's three-to-one advantage in numbers. But he maintained that in skill and training, Pakistan's Air Force was superior.

Preparations for Military Training in Final Stage

BK2811050289 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 0300 GMT 28 Nov 89

[Text] Preparations for the military exercise "Zarb-e Momin" [Impact of Muslims] are now in the final stages.

According to a press release of inter services public relations directorate in Rawalpindi, most of the formations and units have completed their pre-operation, checks, and procedures. The next phase already under way is the strategic assembly of forces using road, rail, and air communication. Operational planning for the exercise and coordination between land and air forces has almost been carried out.

The chief of the Army staff, General Mirza Aslam Beg, visited the headquarters of one of the force in the exercise areas yesterday.

Air Force Chief on 'Major' Exercise

BK2611163589 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 26 Nov 89

[Text] The Pakistan Air Force [PAF] has begun its major exercise High Mark-89 to test its capabilities. In his order of the day on the commencement of the exercise, the chief of the Air Staff, Air Chief Marshall Hakimullah, said it would demand the highest standard of performance and professional competence from the entire PAF personnel. The exercise, which is an annual feature, has a special significance this year as it is being held in conjunction with the large-scale Army exercise Zarb-e Momin [Impact of Muslims]. Among the planes, the newly-inducted F-7P, a modified version of MiG-21 acquired from China, will feature for the first time in the exercise.

Briefing newsmen in Islamabad today, a PAF spokesman said we have better technology, fighting tactics, and training. We have a good safety record which matches the world level. The spokesman said adequate air defense for Kahuta nuclear facilities has been ensured to safeguard it from external threats. The infrastructure of the air defense has been sufficiently strengthened for the purpose.

Comment on Armed Forces' Familiarization Program

BK2811090289 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 27 Nov 89

[Mohammad Yamin commentary]

[Text] As part of the Pakistan Armed Forces program of familiarizing the national media on the defense matters, a series of briefings were given to journalists by the senior commanders of the three forces. The sum total of the briefing was that Pakistan was fully capable of defending its territorial integrity. The journalists visited various facilities of the three wings and had a close look at the high-level of planning and defense orientation of the troops. Their peacetime planning is excellent with full gear motivation.

To meet any adversary's numerical strength and weaponry, it is essential to train the troops on the modern lines and to introduce high technology and computerization within the constraints of the resources. Mindful of this factor, the Armed Forces have started the process. Reorganization of the armored troops has been carried out with the objective of giving more clout to their striking power. This will be tested during the "Zarb-e Momin" [Impact of Muslims] exercise—the first large-scale military exercise to be undertaken by the Pakistan Army sometime next month.

Army's Defense Air Command is Pakistan Army's latest and most developed arm which was formed on October 22 this year. It has the high tech and state of the art equipment and weaponry over and above the traditional equipment. The new arm is capable of responding to any threat in the air in an efficient and effective manner.

During visits to the troops in the border areas, the journalists found them at alert and keeping round-the-clock vigilance. The visit to the normal exercise areas revealed the troops top fitness.

Pakistan Air Force [PAF] is keeping a bird's eye on its eastern and western borders. There is round-the-clock air patrolling along Pakistan's borders on a regular basis. As a result of top class vigilance, Pakistan has the capability of responding to the air violations of its air space by the Afghan aircraft quickly. In the course of the briefing, the deputy chief of the air staff told newsmen that PAF is fully capable for providing cover for the nuclear facilities at Kahuta and the PAF carries on its exercises as a matter of routine.

Pakistan has a modest Navy. Dissecting the comparative strengths of the naval outfits of India and Pakistan, a senior officer of the Pakistan Navy told a group of journalists recently that Pakistan Navy is capable of defending the coastline and protecting its trade routes. The Pakistan Navy spokesman said that a 25-year plan for modernization of the Navy had already been approved in order to strengthen it and enable it to face any future challenge.

What emerged from the candid briefings given by the senior officers of the Armed Forces to the newsmen is that Pakistan is taking proper care of its defense requirements. Pakistan has drawn out toward indigenization of equipment and weapons to some extent. Pakistani-made tanks modelled after the Chinese tanks are expected to be inducted into Army in 2 to 3 years time. Manufacturing of Pakistani-made Anza [shoulder-fired surface-to-air missile of Stinger type] has already started. High technology and computerization is gradually being introduced. Overhauling of tanks and [word indistinct] Mirages and some other aircraft is being done locally. Pakistan Navy is better off than it was in the past. The forthcoming "Zarb-e Momin" exercise will go a long way in improving capabilities of the Armed Forces.

Pakistani, Canadian Defense Officials Meet

BK2611041489 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 25 Nov 89

[Text] The Canadian deputy minister of defense, Mr (Robert Falmer), met the minister of state for defense, Retired Colonel Ghulam Sarwar Cheema, in Rawalpindi today. They reviewed prospects of expanding Pak-Canada defense cooperation, particularly following Pakistan's rejoining the Commonwealth.

Sri Lanka

6,000 Indian Troops Withdraw From Batticaloa

BK2911121089 Colombo LANKAPUVATH in English 1122 GMT 29 Nov 89

["OANA/pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, Nov 29 (LANKAPUVATH)—The Indian Peace Keeping Force [IPKF] moved out of the eastern district of Batticaloa today. Official sources told LANKAPUVATH that the 6,000 Indian troops began leaving Batticaloa Tuesday and completed their withdrawal today. They said an estimated 6,000 indian soldiers left in 200 trucks. Reports from Batticaloa stated that the cadres of the illegal Tamil National Army (TNA), comprising the EPRLF [Eelam People's Revolutionary Liberation Front], ENDLF [Eelam National Democratic Liberation Front] and TELO [Tamil Eelam Liberation Organization] who tried, but failed to prolong the stay of the IPKF, were themselves seen leaving Batticaloa town. This was attributed to the fact that with the departure of the IPKF they had lost protective cover for their high handed actions.

Batticaloa was the second eastern district from which the IPKF withdrew. Earlier, October 25, the IPKF quit Amparai District where an estimated 8,000 Indian troops were stationed. All Indian troops are scheduled to leave Sri Lanka by December 31.

Police Kill 5 Suspected JVP 'Extremists'

BK2911103589 Delhi General Overseas Service in English 1000 GMT 29 Nov 89

[Text] In Sri Lanka, at least 18 persons were killed in separate incidents of extremist-related violence during the past 24 hours. The PRESS TRUST OF INDIA, quoting military sources in Colombo, said five suspected

JVP [Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna—People's Liberation Front] extremists were killed when police repulsed an extremist attack on Dikwella police station in the southern part of the country yesterday. In another incident, the extremists shot dead three members of a family in southern Medeniya. Two extremists were killed by the security forces who rushed to the spot soon after the incident. Three extremists were shot dead when security forces raided a house in western Kurunegala.

Communique Details Security Forces' Operations

BK2611113089 Colombo LANKAPUVATH in English 1016 GMT 26 Nov 89

["OANA/pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, 26 Nov (LANKAPUVATH)—Seventeen subversives, one of them a woman, were taken into custody by security forces in search operations at Welanwita in the Uva Province district of Badulla. The woman subversive who was acting as a lookout was shot and injured when she ran into the jungle, states a government communique issued today.

The communique further states that the arrested subversives are responsible for the killing of a well known nayake thero [Buddhist clergyman] in the area, collecting Rupavahini [Sri Lankan television] licences and identity cards, exploding land mines against police and security force patrols and several robberies including the robbery of the Haputale Peoples Bank.

Ten subversives were shot and killed by the security forces in Kegalle, Kurunegala, Anuradhapura and Kandy. Security forces in conducting cordon and search operations had also recovered from subversive hideouts a large number of shot guns, repeater shot guns, locally made pistols, land mines, imported hand grenades, cartridges and gelignite.

A total of one hundred and seventy seven subversives were taken in for questioning and interrogations are in progress.

In the Northern Province, a group of EPRLF [Eelam People's Revolutionary Liberation Front] members fired at a police party travelling from Vavuniya to Horowapathana. A sub-inspector who received injuries was admitted to hospital.

In Mullaittivu town, Velappan Manimanathan, a LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] member and a refugee at the Kallapadu refugee camp, was shot dead by a group of TELO [Tamil Eelam Liberation Organization] militants.

Police took in 150 suspected subversives at Mawathagama, in Kurunegala. Police in Kurunegala fired at a group of subversives killing four of them. Repeater shot guns, shot guns and hand grenades were also recovered.

The communique also states that police conducting cordon and search operations in Dagonna Kimbulapitiya and Kurana areas in the Western Province district of Gampaha arrested two suspects and recovered shot guns and gelignite.

Subversives set fire to the agriculture office at Mahiyangama. Two subversives were shot and killed and shot guns, cartridges and Army uniforms recovered at Kegalle.

Subversives set fire to a lorry worth Rs. [rupees] 100,000 belonging to the River Valleys Development Board at Ratnapura. In the Southern Province town of Galle, security forces shot and killed a subversive who tried to escape. In Matara, subversives took away three persons from a residence at Devangala and shot them dead. At Badulla, subversives set fire to the office of the excise department. At Monaragala, subversives shot and killed the sub post mistress of Galabedde R.H. Gnawathie (30) and her mother R.H. Lokumenike (50). Their house and sub post office were also set on fire. Security forces searching a subversive jungle hideout in Laxapana, Nuwara Eliya, recovered camouflage uniforms, radio sets, black trousers, jungle caps, masks, tents and knives.

A postman believed to be a hard core JVP [Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna—People's Liberation Front] leader was arrested by security forces at Polonnaruwa.

At Karativu in Ampara, security forces recovered from a hideout several rounds of ammunition, a large number of Indian jungle boots and Indian uniforms.

India Explains TV Transmitter Aid in Northeast

BK2411100589 Colombo LANKAPUVATH in English 0930 GMT 24 Nov 89

["OANA/pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, Nov 24 (LANKAPUVATH)—The Indian High Commission clarifying a communique of the Government Parliamentary Group meeting on November 20, 1989 which was reproduced in newspapers on November 22, 1989 said: "A section of the media has reported that the IPKF [Indian Peacekeeping Force] supported an attack on the security forces of Sri Lanka by unidentified Tamil militants in the Kalmunai area of Ampara District which was recently vacated by the IPKF. They have also alleged that a foreign aircraft had air dropped men and artillery guns in the region.

"It is to be categorically stated that the IPKF is in no way involved in aiding or abetting militancy in the Ampara District of Sri Lanka. It also denies any knowledge of any alleged air dropping of men and material in the sector."

The communique quotes the honorable deputy speaker, Mr Gamini Fonseka, as stating that the central government of India had supplied television transmitting equipment to the northeastern provincial government and that this was in operation in Vavuniya. In this connection, the High Commission would like to state the following facts:

"The Sri Lankan Government on September 21, 1987 had given approval for India to set up TV and radio transmitters in areas where the IPKF was present. Consequently a transmitter was set up in Jaffna.

"In the second week of December 1987 the Sri Lankan Government at the level of defence secretary had further agreed to the establishment of a booster transmitter in Vavuniya. The condition specified at that time was that the transmitters in Jaffna and Vavuniya should not interfere with the transmissions of Rupavahini [Sri Lanka Television].

"Indian officials, therefore, held discussions with Rupavahini and an agreement was reached that VHF Channels 5, 6, 7, 8, and 9 would not be used as frequencies for broadcast from Jaffna and Vavuniya.

"The transmitters in Jaffna and Vavuniya have been in operation for 2 full years with the knowledge and concurrence of the Sri Lankan Government."